

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: ukii@megsinet.net (ukii)
Subject: [10449] 38s. 8volt supply?
Message-ID: <01BC0EAD.64DD7F60@randolph2er1-10.megsinet.net>

Hello Gang... Well,I removed the regulator because I was getting only 3.5v from it. Now,I cant find another 7808 around here,but before I order it from somewhere,I want to check the rest of the rig, (74HC240) so I can order those parts at the same time.
Can I build an "off board" supply to test the radio?
I see the first pin on the 7808 is input,looks like the middle pin would be the grond then...right?
Please save this project from becoming the first virgin 38s to die!
thanks very much...
73 de john
(call sign still omitted)

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: ukii@megsinet.net (ukii)
Subject: [10389] 38s...blown 74HC240 ?
Message-ID: <01BC0E2C.3F765200@randolph2e3-20.megsinet.net>

Hello Gang...
Well,I calmed down and put the kit away for the night...
recap... I stuck L1 into the L101 spot. (dyslexia?)
I applied 12vdc and the regulator started smoking...
Cut power right away and looked for shorts...nothing,then I found the inductor mistake. Put the inductor where it was supposed to go,rechecked it again,applied power and no audio or anything...
No heating of any components this time though...
So,thats where I am at...
I was reading the schematic as best I can and it looks like I put 12vdc diectey into the outputs of the 74HC240 chip. I am assuming that L101 is the 5 watt mod inductor L5...?
Anyway,if indeed i did this,do you think U4 is blown? If so,do they sell these things anywhere,or do I have a "NON-WORKING 38s For Sale" already?
hahaha
I wont give up that easy!
Any help would be great..also a good pair of glasses!
Best 73 de john

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997

From: ukii@megsinet.net (ukii)
Subject: [10393] 38s...Lemme rephrase...
Message-ID: <01BC0E36.3EB36BA0@randolph2e3-20.megsinet.net>

Sorry to send another message so quickly...
Boy, the nyquil must have been having an adverse reaction on me today.
I really goofed this nice radio up! Leave it to me... hope someone learns from my mistakes!

Well, found ANOTHER parts placement error,,, this is a doosey!
I stuck VR1 into, eh, into TR101 ! I really don't know what I was doing!
I rechecked it a few times! I think I might have been looking at those mod schematics or something then got it stuck in my mind...
Anyway, after replacing L1 and VR1 in their correct places.... (3hrs late)
I get audio, but it's just a constant RrRrrRrrrrRrrrrRrrrr kinda sounding noise.
Reminded me of the 49er when it was self oscillating.
I hit the key and do get a nice tone, but don't see any movement on the 100w meter. Also the volume control has no effect on the noise.
I tried the tuning control, that seems to have no effect on the radio either.

I don't have L1 all the way down on the board because I think I will need to wrap wire around it later. Also, the toroids I wound are not mounted all the way down, about 3/8 above the board and 3/8 leads underneath.
Could this be the problem?
Maybe I indeed blew something up, but looks like sticking the VR1 into TR101 saved me from some parts replacements...
(oh, I did use sockets for all the chips, ((past experience!)))

Anyone with any suggestions as to where or what to check?
Thank you all for putting up with me... Hey, I did make you laugh!
Best 73 de john...
(callsign omitted till further notice)

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: "Dan Tayloe-P26412" <Dan_Tayloe-P26412@email.mot.com>
Subject: [10444] 40m was very good last night!
Message-ID: <M29133333.003.u2g42.1.970130180943Z.CC-MAIL*/OU=SATCG/OU=AZBH/PRMD=MOT/ADMD=MOT/C=US/@MHS>

After I fixed my "chirp" problem, I jumped on the air to try it out.
This was about 500 to 530 UTC, 10:30 p.m. Phoenix time.

Boy did the band sound great! Almost no atmospheric noise at all.

I worked AD4AT, Ernie in Manchester, Tenn., who had to run to work, then worked Hatz in Florida. He was only running 1 w to start with, and QSB got him for a while, but the band was so good, I was able to pull him through anyway.

I hope things are that good for the Fox tonight!

- Dan Tayloe, KK7BD, Phoenix, Az, QRP1 # 696, Az ScQRPions

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: "Brian.Buydens@usask.ca" <buydens@duke.usask.ca>
Subject: [10456] 40m, 30m inverted V
Message-ID: <Pine.OSF.3.95.970130145126.20568A-100000@duke.usask.ca>

I was planning to put up an inverted V antenna for 40m. Then I bought a 38spl. I was thinking of using the same antenna for both only putting filters at the end of the 30m segments that only pass 40m and lower. Does anyone know of good designs for this?

Brian.

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+-----+
| Brian Buydens, Computing Services, University of Saskatchewan |
| email: Brian.Buydens@usask.ca |
| VE5RDV |
+-----+
| Keep Cool, but Don't Freeze |
| - Hellman's Mayonnaise |
+-----+
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From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: "L. B. Cebik" <cebik@utkux.utcc.utk.edu>
Subject: [10464] ADMIN: Con Artist Alert (fwd)
Message-ID: <Pine.SOL.3.94.970130174148.29294F-100000@utkux4.utcc.utk.edu>

I received the following item and pass it along. Too many brand new ATGs, 38s, and TT 1340s to take a chance.

This is from the Arizona area; but do not know its extent.

-73-

LB, W4RNL

There is a big scam going on where a person calls and says that they are doing a computer survey from a company. The company name that they give is usually a big well-known software company, and they usually say that they are doing the survey because they want to give out free software. They want to know what would be a good time for someone to come from their company and install the software on your PC. They also ask questions about income, etc.

During their questioning, they (unknowingly to you) find out what time you're usually home, what kind of computer equipment you have and all sorts of other valuable information. At a company where a friend of mine works, a co-worker of his received one of these calls, and he was robbed the very next day (of course, when he was not home). I received a similar call yesterday afternoon. Fortunately, I knew about this ahead of time, and we didn't provide them with any information.

I want to make you all aware of the situation and the potential danger involved in giving out any information like this over the phone. The people sound very genuine, and very few people are going to question receiving free software. I would advise you, however, to tell the people that if they have your phone number, they should have your address (we think they're getting it off the internet somehow), and they can mail you any free software they might be offering. If you have a home computer set-up, you should be familiar with installing your own software. You may even want to tell them you don't have a home computer. Whatever you're comfortable with. Please don't give out any information that you may regret later. Pass this information along to friends and family members, as well. The fewer people they are able to scam, the better.

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: wager@juno.com (James W. Cates)
Subject: [10435] Attn: Nick Franco, Dennis Sheehan
Message-ID: <19970130.090530.3934.28.wager@juno.com>

Sorry, net. Problems, and this is important to me.

Nick: Your order is next up for mailing. This week, most likely.

Dennis: My reply to you bounced. Please resend your msg., and I will do the same with mine.

Tnx, all. jim, WA6GER.

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: "Peter Orban" <peter@amtsg6.ime.nrc.ca>
Subject: [10414] Canadian call signs
Message-ID: <9701300853.ZM12601@amtsg6.ime.nrc.ca>

Someone asked about the VE call signs. The Radio Amateurs of Canada web page <www.rac.com> has a search engine and a downloadable zipped file as well for the Canadian call signs.

Hope it helps, Peter

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Peter E. Orban
National Research Council of Canada
e-mail: peter.orban@nrc.ca

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: "Peter Orban" <peter@amtsg6.ime.nrc.ca>
Subject: [10446] Canadian call signs (hopefully correct this time)
Message-ID: <9701301324.ZM12789@amtsg6.ime.nrc.ca>

oops! The correct url is: <www.rac.ca>

My apologies for the previous wrong address!

Peter

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Peter E. Orban
National Research Council of Canada
e-mail: peter.orban@nrc.ca

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: "KA5T Larry Wise" <lewise@inetport.com>
Subject: [10373] Caps - Markings - Good Grief Charlie Brown
Message-ID: <199701300050.SAA20615@admin.inetport.com>

Oh GURUs of many areas, please an answer...

Went down to the local parts house for some

stuff among which were some silver mica caps
for the NC38S mods....

This is an industrial surplus kind of place where
you get a bag full of stuff for a pittance.....

I went through the bins pulling out 3 or 4 of these,
3 or 4 of those.... might as well stock up...

Well I get home with this fat bag of parts and
decide it's time to sort out ALL of my silver micas
and putt'em in marked containers so I could find
what I wanted when I needed some....

I emptied out all the shoe boxes, coffee cans, and
plastic drawers of all the silver micas I could find
quickly and set to....

Everythings going along peachy,

330 10% into the 330 puff sack,
5 5% into the 5 puff sack,
120 10% into the 120 puff sack,

271J03 into the 270 puff sack,
130PG9 into the 130 puff sack
120J into the 120 puff sack
120J03 into the 120 puff sack
510F03 into the.....

Wait a minute....How do I know 271J03 is 270???
Well , you know,... the tricky three digit code...besides,
what's the odds of it being a 271 puff??

What about the 130PG9??? Well,... it has a P after the
digit code, I think that means picofarads..

What about the 120J? Well with no other markings
it must be 120. Hmmm not very logical...

What about the 120J03 with CM05CD over it ??
I know I bought some 12 puffs once for the HW2036A
mod.... Hmmmmmm.

And now, 510F03 with CM05ED over it...51 or 510?????

And these are only those chocolate brown silver micas....

OH GURUS of the SILVER MICA READING persuasion,

can you give a simple \\\\) any algorithm for decoding these caps correctly every time??????

I know... I know.... check'um with the checker....But
I just hate bringing the same guy fish all the time. If I can
just teach him to use a Bud can, some line, a hook and sinker!!!

Whatsa????

Is there an answer???

Anyone know what it is or where it is???

(My 1992 ARRL Handbook doesn't even mention silver mica
markings.)

Larry

KA5T - Larry Wise - Georgetown, Texas - lewise@inetport.com QRP-L 89
ex: KN8OSG K8OSG(1959-1967 MI) W6HED(1967-1968 Ca) W4ZTB(1968-1978 Fl)

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: gsurrency@juno.com (Gary L Surrency)
Subject: [10471] Chirp Dan no more, power supplies and output powers
Message-ID: <19970130.164444.9990.0.gsurrency@juno.com>

Very interesting story, Dan. Guess we can't call you "chirpy Dan"
anymore. ;-)

Good work!

On the other hand, what were you using for your 12v supply, that varies
by as much as 1 volt? My two homebrew power supplies are dead stable at
the output terminals, with only a few millivolts of I/R drop in the 2
feet or so of #18 gauge zip lead power cord.

One is based on the LM338 5A 3-terminal adjustable regulator. The other
is the one I described here earlier using a 25.2 Vct R/S transformer
feeding a power schottky center-tapped rectifier from a computer power
supply. The rectified DC is filtered by a 4700ufd 25V electrolytic and
fed into a NTE934 13.8v

3-terminal 5 amp T0-3 regulator. 4 parts excluding the switch, power
cord, binding posts, line fuse, etc. Both of these supplies are built
into R/S project enclosures, pn. 270-253.

I also have a 12v 7 amp/hr gell cell from Electronic City (\$19.95) for the field outings, and a 12v 400ma solar panel to keep it up.

The S&S rigs I have all pull considerably more than the average NorCal or OHR rig, since they are digitally synthesized, and use high bias current RF and IF, and LO amplifiers for good intercept point figures.

For Ex.: (All current measurements @13.8Vdc, readings are in amperes)

Rig	Rcv Current	Xmit Current	Output (Max)
Ark30	0.44	1.20	7w
Tac-1 40m	0.25	1.25	9w
Tac-1 80m	0.25	1.20	8w

As you can see, these rigs win no awards for low current consumption! At 12v on the battery, all these rigs drop a little more toward the "official" 5w QRP level. They all use the same final amp, a MRF-476.

For some reason, the 40m Tac-1 has more output than does the 80m Tac-1. They are both aligned almost exactly the same, and were tweaked to maximum output with clean waveform on a scope.

I have noticed that another old rig I have also has the greatest output on 40m.

Is this the case with other rigs? Is there something special about 40m and maximum power output?

These rigs are pretty good about not chirping until the battery voltage drops below around 11.5v. There is a 9v regulator in the synthesizer circuitry that expects an input-to-output differential sufficient to maintain regulation. The PLL and VCO get goofy below that. :-)

Cheers,

Gary Surrency AB7MY
S&S TAC-1(40&80m) and ARK30
QRP-L #571 Chandler, AZ (near Phoenix)Grid Square DM43BH

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: "Dan Tayloe-P26412" <Dan_Tayloe-P26412@email.mot.com>

Subject: [10443] Chirpy Serria Type Transciever

Message-ID: <M29133174.007.u2186.1.970130180141Z.CC-MAIL*/OU=SATCG/OU=AZBH/
PRMD=MOT/ADMD=MOT/C=US/@MHS>

I have a homebrew 40m transceiver that uses a Serria type receiver line up. (Ne602 front end mixer, Crystal filter, MC1350 IF amp, Crystal filter, Ne602 product detector, 386 audio amp w/ agc).

The output power I was getting was about 2.25 w. I use an IRF510 as a final, and vary the bias voltage to vary the output power. Since this was my main fox hunt rig, I have been raising the supply voltage to 24v to get 5 watts output for fox hunting.

The problem with a stock Serria TX matching network is that it is just a low pass filter, so a little over two watts is all you can get with 12v. Using $V^2/(2 \cdot R)$, all I should really get is about 1.5 W.

I fixed this in my rig by taping the 12v drain choke on the output transistor about half way to feed the transistor, and using the other end to feed the low pass filter. This is an "autotransformer" configuration which transformed the 50 ohm filter input down to 12.5 ohm on the drain of the output transistor. I now can get about 22v peak into 50 ohm, or just short of 5 watts.

Then however, I started getting "chirp" reports. I talked to Chuck K5FO while he was trying out his new ten tec rig (sounded great!) and WB0QQT (FSFD) and got chirp reports from both.

I really did not want to tear into my Fox rig, but I do want a good clean signal.

As I listened to myself transmit on a separate receiver, I noticed that at reduced power levels, the chirp was still there, but was *much* less noticeable.

After a lot of searching, I was finally able to track down the problem. At 5w, I am pulling about 0.75 amps, and I am getting about 1v IR drop to the rig. The receiver runs off a 8v regulator, and although at 11v, it is still in regulation specs, a 1v change in the input does cause the 8v output to change a bit.

I run my 2N4401 VFO off of 3v. The idea is that the less voltage to the VFO, the less heat generated, which results in less drift. I derive this from the 8v regulator by using a resistor divider applied to the base of an emitter follower 2N4401 transistor. Apply a 4.7 uf cap to the base, and it also reduces noise by the cap multiplier affect.

I fixed my problem by adding an additional 5V regulator after the 8v regulator which then goes to the emitter follower to feed by VFO. Since I want to add a TICK chip anyway sometime soon (I just got my order of 10 TICK chips), this 5v tap is useful anyway. Of course I had to rebias the resistive divider feeding the emitter follower to get back to 3v, but this was not difficult.

12v input varies 1v, output of 8v regulator varies maybe 10 mv, output of 5v regulator is dead stable. This results in a stable 3v to the VFO. No more chirp!

I have heard of other rigs here on the net that have problem with chirp at higher power levels. Undoubtedly it is the same affect. Better regulation to the VFO may be in order.

I now have 6 homebrew rigs total, all of which have been converted to higher power. I now probably have the same problem with all of them. Looks like I have some work ahead of me....

- Dan Tayloe, KK7BD, Phoenix, AZ, QRP1 # 696, Az ScQRPions

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: "CHRIS KB5VYB" <guardianone@mvtel.net>
Subject: [10388] CQ OSCOPE ARTICLE
Message-ID: <9701300317.AA17645@host.ot.centuryinter.net>

WILL THIS SCOPE BE SUFFICIENT TO TEST 49er's 38s etc.... As far as setting it for the cleanest transmit signal etc.

72 73 Chris KB5VYB QRP-L # 853 AK/QRP #38 AR/QRP #32

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: "Marshall G. Emm" <mgemm@mtechnologies.com>
Subject: [10379] CQC Web Site Update
Message-ID: <32F0020B.2AF2@mtechnologies.com>

The CQC web site has been updated. Links to Radio Works and Worldradio Magazine (under construction) have been added.

Member Links: The following CQC members have links to their pages from the CQC's links page: N0TFI KI7MN K5FO AA0XI

If you're a CQC member and have a home page, let me know the details and I'll put it on there with the others.

To get to the CQC's Web Site point your browser at
<http://www.mtechnologies.com/mthome> and look for the CQC logo near
the bottom of the page.

73

Marshall Emm
AA0XI

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: adams@chuck.dallas.sgi.com (Chuck Adams)
Subject: [10410] CW issues
Message-ID: <199701301228.MAA19832@chuck.dallas.sgi.com>

Gang,

First, all you guys/girls with no code experience.
If you are about to start, send me email and we'll
take the issues offline.

Do start with a straight key. To do otherwise is
a big mistake. A REAL BIG mistake. Don't listen
to the nay-sayers. You can send almost perfectly
spaced code with a straight key. I worked a 14 yr
old on 30M two years ago doing 20wpm and his code
was almost perfect. You can do it too.

Yes, you will want to go to Iambic paddles and
keyers later in life, but you gotta walk before
you can run. There are some subtle and not so
subtle psychological and mental factors at work
here. Attitude is everything. Work is essential.
You won't get there with a free ride.

So if you have 30minutes a day we can get you to
20 wpm before the end of the year. Start early,
stay late. :-)

Email to me only. We don't need a thread on this
old worn out topic. :-)

dit dit

SIG

Chuck Adams K5FO adams@sgi.com
http://reality.sgi.com/employees/adams_dallas/

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: "Jim Kortge, K8IQY" <fznqbf@mpg.nec.gmeds.com>
Subject: [10432] E-Mail Change
Message-ID: <1.5.4.16.19970130165206.278f18b4@mpg.nec.gmeds.com>

Gang...my internet provider and I unexpectedly parted company Tuesday evening, so do not send anything to my old address. It will bounce. I'll let the list know when I get a new e-mail account.

Info to me can be posted to qrp-1, and I can get it by reading the archives, and sending replies via my work account for a few days.

Sorry for the situation, but I did not cause the problem!!

72....Jim Kortge, K8IQY

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: NilsBull@aol.com
Subject: [10385] Enameled wire for coils +c
Message-ID: <970129163948_647768293@emout18.mail.aol.com>

A great source for enameled wire -- at least for me -- is old motors out of projectors and electric heaters. These motors usually have a fan attached to the shaft by spring clips or have been molded onto the shaft before final assembly. Any electrical device that generates heat or light or both usually has one of these motors. The frame and field winding stuff is usually easy to bust open with screw drivers or chisels. Once you get the frame apart, it's easy to unwind what you need.

On old Model AF and AF2 (as well as E model) Kodak slide projectors the motor is also a transformer for the autofocus and actuator circuits. These motors have two windings, one of fairly light weight wire (the secondary) and a more robust (and better for radio circuit) wire for the primary. I've used the secondary wire as antenna wire in the attic and got pretty decent results. I've also used this wire -- I collect all the dead motors I can find -- in coils, toroid and otherwise, for radio projects.

If you want more heavy guage wire, try old dryer or washing machine motors. I've got one out in the garage, waiting for warmer weather. If I can get the frame apart (where's them damn badgers when I need 'em?), I'll let youze all know how successful I am at getting the windings out of the innards.

Recycle old junk: use the parts.

73
Nils
WB8IJN +c

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: majewski@erim.org (Ron Majewski)
Subject: [10437] FOX night tonight
Message-ID: <9701301712.AA06409@spsd630a.erim.org>

Hello to all you Hounds,

Just a reminder that tonight (30 January local time) is another FOX night. I will be active from 8pm - 10pm EST.

If you prefer to think in terms of UTC, I will be active from 0100-0300utc on Friday, 31 January.

My callsign has changed to W8RU.

I will once again be ping-ponging between the ground plane and the delta loop. 40m was pretty noisy this morning, but I'm hoping for the best.

I hope to work as many of you as time and conditions permit.

72/3,

Ron (W8RU).
majewski@erim.org

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: Nick Franco <kf2ph@bnl.gov>
Subject: [10448] Fox QSL's
Message-ID: <32F0EBEB.4092@bnl.gov>

Hunters,

I have been having fits and starts with getting my QSL cards printed out. I'll be sending out the cards from my last Fox stint ASAP. Sorry for the delay. I finally have good copies printed and will fill them out tonight. I'll try to make it to the PO tomorrow. Again, my appologies for the delay.

Nick - KFox2PH

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Nicholas J. Franco <>> BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY
Sr. Systems Specialist RHIC Project Building 1005
Tel: (516) 344-5467 UPTON, NY 11973-5000
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Email: nickf@bnl.gov <http://www.rhichome.bnl.gov/People/franco>

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: QLF@mimi@magic.itg.ti.com
Subject: [10416] FOXES (2!) TONIGHT
Message-ID: <9701301447.AA06251@itg.ti.com>

From: Brad Bradfield QLF

Subj: FOXES (2!) TONIGHT

Wow! Two foxes (foxii?) in one night. Hope it's good hunting.

>I almost blew it, AGAIN !!

>See you all Thursday evening...

>==== Novice/Tech+ Fox =====

>WA7SSA Niel Skousen
> Thur. 1.30.97 7:00-9:00pm MST
> Fri 1.31.97 0200-0400 UTC
>FREQ 7.112 +/-
>RIG FT-757 @ 3.5w (may try NorCal 40 2nd hr... :-)
>ANT Inv.V @ 28 ft, legs E-W
>QTH Idaho Falls, ID
>QRP-L #119

Subject: [10433] FSFD

Message-ID: <19970130.095008.10390.2.gsurrency@juno.com>

Ok, I got Ken on 14.060. The band was really poor from his QTH to AZ, but it improved enough for him to hear my 5w just now, 1642Z.

Never did hear him on 30m, but got a call from AC6JA as we was preparing to go to work, and had a nice short QSO with Mike near SF.. He was using his 38s at 5w, and it sounded really good here. He was a good 569.

30m was really noisy here, so Ken might have been there, and I just couldn't hear him.

72s,

Gary Surrency AB7MY

S&S TAC-1(40&80m) and ARK30

QRP-L #571 Chandler, AZ (near Phoenix)Grid Square DM43BH

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997

From: PGSPersEng@aol.com

Subject: [10459] FSFD NH results (AA1MI)

Message-ID: <970130142602_174969023@emout13.mail.aol.com>

Propagation was pretty poor, especially later at night. I tried to stay "open" late to accommodate the West Coast, but to no avail. I was barely able to copy stations from the midwest towards the end of my shift.

A short summary:

19 QSOs, 15 states

80m - 2 contacts

40m - 5 contacts

30m - 7 contacts

20m - 5 contacts

Thanks to everyone who hung in there with me despite the lousy conditions and ever-present QRM.

72

Paul, AA1MI

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997

From: Byron8LCZ@aol.com
Subject: [10429] FSFD WB0QPA Nebr
Message-ID: <970130104907_647886342@emout01.mail.aol.com>

In a message dated 97-01-29 23:36:11 EST, you write:

<< Finally got in touch with Dale (WB0QPA) tonight and here is his report of contacts and comments. He was running a KW TS-830 @ 100 watts into an HF-6 vertical. Said he wanted to make sure he was heard! >>

Hi

His contact is practically worthless. the whole point of FSFD is two way QRP QSO's.

72, Byron WA8LCZ Detroit

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: Jim Hydzyk <congress@magpage.com>
Subject: [10395] FSFD (50 States) Update for Jan 30
Message-ID: <199701300453.XAA23369@alaska.magpage.com>

Hello ALL, (QRP activity info at <http://www.dancris.com/~ki7mn>)
Please read NOTE 1 at bottom of page.

The 50 States In 50 Days (FSFD) activity started Jan 01 and runs through Feb. 20. Below is a the schedule of States for the next few days. We will attempt to provide digested schedules of states/times/bands/freqs. to help reduce message traffic to the reflector. Typically, only 1 message per day.

ALL TIMES UTC

Jan. 30 Thursday NEW JERSEY N2CQ, Ken 1400-1500 UTC 7.040
1500-1600 UTC 10.116
1600-1700 UTC 14.060

Ken will call for the 1st 20 minutes of each hour then stby. if not busy.

N2TNN, Dean 1700-2000 UTC 21.060
and/or 10.110
2000-2200 UTC 14.055

Jan. 31 Friday TENNESSEE AC4HF, Jeff 1500-1545 UTC 7.030-050
1600-1620 UTC 10.105-110
1630-1700 UTC 14.030-050

If all goes as planned, portable op.->0100-0145 SAT-UTC 7.030-050

^(Not guaranteed but likely)^

Jeff plans to be on often/randomly from TN Sat and Sunday.

Feb. 01 Saturday NEW MEXICO WA5WHN, Jay 1700-1900 UTC 14.054
2000-2100 UTC 10.116
NM NEW MEXICO 2300-2400 UTC 7.038
Look for Judy/WB5LYJ (Jay's XYL) too. They have 2 QRP
stations and will also try for 28.447 and 21.060 if
bands are open in the afternoon.

NEW YORK NEW YORK WZ2T, Rick 1600-1800 UTC 21.055/21.120
1800-2000 UTC 14.061
Novice Bands for 1st 15 minutes 0100-0200 SUN-UTC 7.042/7.121
and then General bands 0200-0400 SUN-UTC 3.555/3.705

KV2X, TOM 1400-1500 UTC 7.040
1700-1800 UTC 7.040
1800-1830 UTC 21.040
2300-2400 UTC 7.040
0300-0430 SUN-UTC 7.040

OTHER WEEKEND ACTIVITIES: Delaware QSO Party, All bands & modes
^K3QIO/KA3LLL on QRP CW in Del.^
NorthWest QRP Club Digital Sprint

Feb. 02 Sunday NORTH CAROLINA AE4IC, Bob 1800-1900 UTC 7.040+
1900-2000 UTC 10.116+
Highest open band-----> 2000-2200 28.060/21.060/14.060+
2100-2200 UTC 14.060+
0030-0130 MON-UTC 3.560+
0130-0230 MON-UTC 1.810+
Then to check-in to KnightLite Net on 3.710 after 0230

Feb. 03 Monday SPARTAN SPRINT no special FSFD...work everybody

This is a fun event. See ARC postings to the reflector for details.

Feb. 04 Tuesday OHIO KD8IN, Steve 1400-1600 UTC 7.042+
1800-2000 UTC 14.050
0000-0300 WED-UTC 7.040+

AA8EB	AA8EB	1300-1400	UTC	7.042+
		1400-1500	UTC	10.118+
		1500-1600	UTC	14.052+
		0145-0300	WED-UTC	7.042+

K8NU	K8NU	1800-2000	UTC	14.050+
------	------	-----------	-----	---------

KG8SF	KG8SF	2000-2200	UTC	7.040+
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NS80, Greg	2300-0100	UTC	7.040 +/-
	0200->WED-UTC until no Q's		7.040 +/-

Other Activity: New England QRP Club 79er SPRINT 3.579 MHz 0200-0300 WED-UTC

NOTE 1. Most sign-ups came with a note saying they would go longer if busy. Frequencies are +/- QRM & typ. may reach as far as 3-4 KHz from posted freq. If an major QRP frequency is listed, like 7.040, it means close by if possible. We will attempt to avoid being right on 7.040, 14.060, 10.116, etc.

CALLING CQ: A suggestion. If we call CQ WAS or WAS QRP de K6.... etc, we give those not on QRP-L an indication of what we're doing. FSFD type calling might be too cryptic for all but ourselves. However 'FS' is fine when busy. Exchange RST, State/Province/Country, and Name. Power level is nice to know.

If you want to sign-up for an upcoming State, e-mail band/freq/time directly to:
congress@magpage.com

Thanks for all the responses/encouragement and suggestions. Lets have a blast!

Jim K3QIO Wilmington, Delaware

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: Jim Hydzik <congress@magpage.com>
Subject: [10412] FSFD Hints from the Pilot Seat
Message-ID: <199701301239.HAA13529@alaska.magpage.com>

Hey Gang,

FSFD has been quite an experience with many unexpected rewards. With the upturn in conditions that occurred in mid-December it looked like we would have good propagation countrywide, if not world wide. Since then we noted

some of the worst conditions of this solar minimum. Probably none worse than on Jan. 20 morning when Scott/NF3I was up for Maryland. There wasn't one heterodyne from 7.000-045 for hours. That said, the e-mail comments consistently talk about improved operating skills and in some cases, a new awareness of what can be done and what has to be done to make the contact.

The distribution of schedules has often put in the morning and evening grey line factor. With FOX schedules, the sun has usually cleared the east coast by hours and those effects are lessened. Trying to work St. Louis from the east coast when noise and signals from Europe are enhanced by 20 dB and static crashes from NC to the equator are building by 20 dB. It makes for interesting and challenging operations. For many, this is their first experience at hell and QRP. Nope, don't touch that power dial. Try earlier, or later, or tomorrow, or change the antenna orientation and take-off angle. It can be done, but antennas, more than 1 per band, make the biggest difference. During Florida's day, N4BP was consistently 3 S-units stronger than KK4KF at the same time on the same band to each of my antennas here in Delaware. Rain gutters are not as effective as beams at 70 feet. Some just found out how much difference there really is.

A few Suggestions

- 1) Start your schedule about 5 minutes before the top of the hour. Two main reasons: Most buddy-to-buddy and net schedules start at the top of the hour and end of TV programs at 57-58 min. past the hour. Get established on the frequency a little early.
- 2) Avoid being dead on a whole KHz. Try 7.0415 or 7.0375. Nets and schedules with dad usually are dead on the KHz mark. When conditions change, that net 1500 miles away won't be as much of a problem.
- 3) Switch between 2 or more antennas and different types of antennas. There are MANY stations I'd never worked this year if it wasn't for the simple longwire and the dipole. Non-rotatable loops can have deafening nulls when the signals are just above the noise level. If you have only 1 antenna up, try hard to add another, keep separate tuners on each one (if necessary) and constantly switch between them.
- 4) AS Byron mentioned, shift frequency a little if you are not getting many return calls on an active band. You might not be hearing another QSO on frequency that is too close or on the other coast, but those in the middle having a heck of a time. 300-400 HZ is a good move.

Others have passed on hints and all are useful. Try everything and know which ones work for you. One more thing I do; If someone sends 'QRL' on the frequency, I usually hit the high power switch to reply Y E S and send it slowly. This seems much more effective than the simple 'C' and the power helps the other guy with the S-6 noise level to help him help you. If you have QRO capability, I can't think of a better time to use it. That other

operator really wants to not interfere.

Thanks to all who have posted their suggestions to improve communications and to those who have helped make the first FSFD truly a success.

Jim K3QIO Delaware

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: GREGOIRE@endor.com
Subject: [10417] FSFDde AA1IK FINAL TALLY

Hello Gang,

Wow , what a day!! I had a ball.

The final score was 56 QSO'S and here is the break down.

Look at my signiture for the QSL address. I will QSL 100 % on all cards received.

UTC

DATE: TIME: BAND STN: QTH: NAME:

01/29	1300	40CW	K5ID	AR	KEN
"	1322	"	WD9CTB	IN	JERRY
"	1401	"	VE3JC	ON	JOHN
"	1405	"	K3QIO	DE	JIM
"	1410	"	W9KI	AR	5W
"	1417	"	KC40	KY	ROY
"	1422	"	KE8LF	OH	LARRY
"	1503	20CW	K5ID	AR	KEN
"	1504	"	KI8MN	AZ	BOB
"	1509	"	AC6KW	CA	JEFF
"	1518	"	W9KI	AR	PAUL
"	1526	"	N4VSN	FL	JOHN
"	1537	"	W6EMD	CA	DAVE
"	1545	"	WA8ECZ	MI	ROY
"	1548	"	K4SEE	FL	FOREST
"	1550	"	K9IQP	IL	GIL
"	1601	"	KB0QQC	MO	MARY
"	1610	"	VE3JC	ON	JOHN
"	1615	"	NG0M	NE	CHUCK
"	1626	"	W6NOI	CA	PEDRO

"	1636	"	NF9V	WI	RUDY	
"	1643	"	NC0J	KS	JIM	
"	1651	"	KE4YS	FL	STEW	
"	1655	"	WG7Y	WY	BOB	
"	1808	"	WD0CMM	OK	MITCH	
"	1820	"	KD8ABK	OR	GEORGE	
"	1913	"	KD6VMY	CA	ERNIE	
"	1930	"	AB7RJ	WA	MARSH	
"	2004	15SSB	WA7KPQ	WA	PAUL	
"	2014	"	AA5WD	TX	FELIX	
"	2023	"	WA5JSU	TX	ROBERT	
"	2032	"	W5BQU	TX	TEX	
"	2101	"	N0HPK	CO	DOUG	
"	2104	"	KG0V	CO	CHUCK	
"	2118	"	KOKIE	NE	CHUCK	
"	2121	"	KC7QNS	UT	GARY	
"	2125	"	KA0BKM	CO		
"	2134	"	ZF2DR	DX	DAVE GRAND CAYMAN	
"	2138	"	W0NBA	CO	BERT	
"	2302	40CW	K4WZ	GA	RON	
"	2305	"	KE4IZH	VA	RICK	
"	2311	"	W1WW	CT	GEORGE	
"	2319	"	KB0ZDF	IA	DEN	
"	2325	"	K7DU	WY	GEO	
"	2327	"	WA9PWP	WI		
"	2332	"	N4BP	FL	BOB	
"	2338	"	KC40	KY	ROY	
"	2345	"	K4NK	SC	LES	
01/30	0004	"	AA8EB	OH	MIKE	
"	0009	"	W2UX	SC	GARY	
"	0013	"	AA0DM	MO	LARRY	
"	0018	"	W5UFT	TX	CJ A REAL RAG CHEWER	
"	0030	"	AB7MY	AZ	GARY	
"	0034	"	N7MFB	WA	BILL ?	
"	0040	"	W9MSE	WI	JEFF	
"	0041	"	WA8LCZ	MI	RONY	

 de AA1IK,
 Ernie Gregoire

Lead by example.

It is better to pull a string,
 than to push it.

R.R. 1, Box 221,
 South Rd.
 Canaan, NH. 03741

Fists # 2644, N.E.QRP # 202
 QRP-L # 95, Fly fisher & tier,
 Promise Keeper.

E-mail address: gregoire@endor.com

packet address: AA1IK@W1WOK.FN43FE.NH.USA.NA

01/29/97 19:58:31

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: George Gingell <k3tks@u1.abs.net>
Subject: [10398] Handy TIP & Lamp Offer
Message-ID: <Pine.BSI.3.93.970130002811.16371C-100000@u1.abs.net>

Subject: Newbie builders, attention! (long)
From: sigcom@juno.com (Stephen M Smith)

Group,

I have noticed a couple of posts from builders who've fried things upon power up of their just completed or just modified 38S. There is a simple way to prevent letting the smoke out upon initial application of juice should there be a serious problem in your radio. This has been posted on the list previously, but I thought that it would be a good time to bring it up again.

Before you apply power to your kit for the first time, purchase a 12-14 Volt incandescent lamp that's rated for 50 milliamps or so. The Radio Shack P/N 272-1092 is my pick for the 38S because it is rated at 60 ma. and has wire leads that you can connect to with clip leads (be careful handling these lamps, they're somewhat fragile). Connect the lamp in series with the positive lead from you power source to the 38S. If, when you apply power to your 38S, the lamp illuminates at full brilliance, STOP! You have a problem with your kit. There is a short somewhere. But more than likely, you'll not have fried the radio. Proceed with troubleshooting and correct whatever is causing the problem. If the lamp lights dimly (1/2 brilliance or so) you should be ready to connect the power directly (lamp removed) and proceed with tune-up. Note: If you try to transmit with the lamp in series, the lamp **will** light at full brilliance and your rig will not transmit. You need to remove the lamp for transmitter testing.

BTW, here's a tip to help you judge what's full brilliance and what is 1/2 brilliance: First, connect one lamp to your 13.8 V supply. That lamp will light at full brilliance. Now, connect two lamps in series across the same supply. Each of those lamps will be lit at 1/2 brilliance.

The 38S draws around 30 milliamps key up, when not receiving a signal. That equates to about 1/2 brilliance on a lamp rated for 60 milliamps.

T.V repair people use this trick all the time (except they use a 110 V light bulb in series with the A.C. line), especially on sets that have just had a shorted horizontal output transistor replaced. Keeps the same thing from happening again if there are additional zapped components.

Obviously, this procedure is meant for inexperienced builders. Experienced kitters will use a DVM to check initial current drain, but this little trick is easy, safe and gives an instant indication.

Good luck with your kits.

73.....Steve, WB6TNL

This TIP should be in The QRP Quarterly.
Steve, I wonder if you would like to give Mike C., WA8MCQ permission to use this in the IDEA EXCHANGE Column of the Quarterly?

I will cc this to qrpl and him as well.

I will be glad to provide a couple of suitable Lamps "FREE" to anyone who sends me a SASE.

G. Danny Gingell, K3TKS 3052 Fairland Road Silver Spring, MD 20904-7117

"Home of the Maryland Milliwatt Club."

QRP DX TU (C) 1986 G.Danny Gingell, K3TKS@abs.net
Maryland Milliwatt QRP Reference Library, (301)572-6789

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: David Adams <adamsclan@netgate.net>
Subject: [10381] HW-8 aligned
Message-ID: <32F009EC.1B52@netgate.net>

So...I struggled for about an hour and a half trying to get a decent reading during alignment with an rf probe (I hate them...they are the devils tool....you could shield the things with six inch plating directly connected to the best of earth grounds and you will still get hand capacitance). Regardless, after picking up a hammer and preparing the smash the whole thing, I opted to pull out the trusty dx-440 and zero beat the hfo into place (why oh why didn't I think of that

earlier)...10 minutes later the entire alignment is complete...lots of signals, all is well.

I'm wondering how my power out compares to the rest of you 8-ers...

80m (slightly deaf receiver) 3 watts out

40m 6 watts out

20m 6 watts out

15m 1.5-2 watts out

40 and 20 seem high according to the manual...15 a bit low...

The relative power meter doesn't work...I'll have to figure that out as I generally do not carry a watt meter to the field (my wattmeter is rather large...built into the mfj tuner) and you need the meter for setting the loading cap.

73 de dave, n9uxu

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997

From: Frank G3YCC <g3ycc@gqrpclub.demon.co.uk>

Subject: [10442] Improve that audio!

Message-ID: <854647441.10483.0@gqrpclub.demon.co.uk>

How to improve your receive audio:

This applies to rigs with top mounted loudspeakers (many modern commercial rigs).

To increase the audio from your nice grey/black box, obtain an empty margarine carton. Cut it in half to form 'an arch' and place behind the speaker grill. This will 'throw the audio' forward. Try it, it works. OK, so it's not a new idea, but may be useful to someone...!

NOTES: Butter containers also work but may be responsible for increased Cholesterol levels.

The make of margarine (or butter) is unimportant.

Well, it makes a change from mint tins...

Cheers!

---72/3---Frank G3YCC G QRP 042

QTHR (Kirk Ella, East Yorkshire)

QRP Web sites: <http://www.gqrpclub.demon.co.uk>

<http://www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/5179>

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: ukii@megsinet.net (ukii)
Subject: [10382] it SMOKES!
Message-ID: <01BC0E25.6715EC00@randolph2e3-20.megsinet.net>

Well,I did it again! My 38 special does smoke,so I know its getting 12 volts! Anyway,after looking over everthing for the 4th time, I see I stuck the L1 into L101...
I am waiting for the iron to heat up and change it,but any idea if I took out a few components along the way?
The regulator started smoking and I imediately unplugged it from the outlet... Anyway,lemme go check this before I keep on...
stay tuned!
john
n9ukx

(film at 11,,,,,,commercial at 1105!

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: "Marshall G. Emm" <mgemm@ntechnologies.com>
Subject: [10403] K5FO in Print!
Message-ID: <32F03BC1.7FFB@ntechnologies.com>

Hi, Guys--

Chuck has a detailed list of CW abbreviations printed in the current issue (Vol 10 Issue 1 1997) of Key Note, the journal of the FISTS CW Club.

[Chuck-- if you're reading this, I'd be delighted to put a copy on the CQC home page if you can e-mail it to me]

FISTS (aka the International Morse Preservation Society) is a great organization, so if you haven't joined please consider doing so. The whole point of the organization is to preserve Morse and CW, but it's a lot of fun, too, and Key Note is very informative (there's even a monthly QRP column by John Shannon, K3WWP). You can get to the FISTS home page on the web at <http://n9nvv.qrp.com/~fists> or send an SASE for info to Nancy Kott WZ8C, P.O. Box 47, Hadley, MI 48440-0047. You can also e-mail Nancy at nancy@tir.com. Tell her I sent you.

73
Marshall

AA0XI

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: "Bob Tellefsen-CNSE97" <Bob_Tellefsen-CNSE97@email.mot.com>
Subject: [10401] Lamp noise
Message-ID: <M1260130.001.t4m70.1.970130055854Z.CC-MAIL*/OU=LMPCC10/OU=ILBE/
PRMD=MOT/ADMD=MOT/C=US/@MHS>

Scott:

Your idea of choking the power cord for the lamp with a ferrite rod is a step in the right direction. It would be more effective if you could get it close to the lamp, though. Putting it at the floor where the cord enters the lamp stand leaves a fair length between lamp and choke to radiate. The metal lamp stand won't be a shield, as it isn't grounded. It will just become part of the antenna.

You could try a few experiments and see if there is any improvement.

1. Remove and replace the bulb a few times to see if the contacts are clean. If they aren't, the wiping action from removing and replacing might clean them a bit.
2. While the bulb is out of its socket, check the socket and wiring around it. I understand these things get very hot, so who knows what the heat might do to the wiring. Be sure all connections are secure.
3. If this doesn't bring any relief, buy a replacement bulb and try it. There might be a problem with the bulb itself.
4. If none of these work, see if the lamp can suffer an untimely failure, unfortunately not repairable. :-)

Hope this helps a bit, Scott.

72, Bob N6WG

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: Scott Rosenfeld NF3I <ham@w3eax.umd.edu>
Subject: [10380] LDG purchase officially closing...
Message-ID: <Pine.3.89.9701292153.A23761-0100000@w3eax.umd.edu>

If you haven't expressed an interest as of yet, it is too late. After a GREAT 2nd wind effort, I'm closing the door. Not only did we make 50

AT-11s (plus two!), but we cleaned LDG out of AT-11 enclosures.

Talk about fun! The units will be shipped (hopefully) tomorrow and I'll have the weekend (oh JOY!) to sort, unpack, box, manifest, and ship.

Goodness gracious. Biggest thing I've EVER done (OK, maybe the Bach. and Master's degrees in Electrical Engineering were bigger, but not by much).

* Scott Rosenfeld NF3I Burtonsville, MD FM19mc QRV 80-10/6/2/440 *
*** 6m 75 grids worked on 8 watts *** HF 138 cfmd * QRP-L #147 ***
** QRP ARCI #9054 ** DXCC/WAS/WAC *** 100% dipole powered HF/6m **
* 301-549-1022 h / 301-982-1015 w *** 145.490- 147.225+ PL 156.7 *

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: Jess Gypin <jessqrp@concentric.net>
Subject: [10383] LDG Tuner in Sierra and other ramblings (longish)
Message-ID: <32F00CF3.6C05@concentric.net>

Hi all,

I just bothered to look at the LDG web page for the QRp tuner and "just" noticed the pictures of the Sierra with the tuner built in. WOW! K5RL did a beautiful job. I just wish that I could see in person, but I think that the drool would short out the tuner....

I wonder what he used for the hinge at the back of the tuner? Talk about a do all rig! I would have been knitting kittens while drilling the holes in the front panel for the led's and switches...one slip and SCRAACTCHH!!! Of course I am sure that you all are not as much of a klutz as I am. I just finished putting the Island keyer in an external box. I was going to stick it in the NW40 but decided against it. Too many wires and buttons. I am NOT happy with the job that I did on the chassis for the keyer. I used a RS aluminum project box after trying to fit it inside one of the plastic boxes with the metal lid and no room. For being such a small keyer, by the time that you put the batteries in the box and the speaker and all of the wires that this takes, it akes up a LOT of room. The box that I used was a semi clam shell aluminum but the fit of the box halfs is terrible and the holes that I drilled for the speaker "grille" are of center and the push buttons don't all line up perfectly and WAHHHHH!@ Snif SNif.....I guess I will have to break down and buy a nicer box. Geez by the time that I replaced some of the pushbuttons in the hardware kit, bought better knobs for the pots, two enclosures and batteries, and this little "cheap" keyer is costing me a fortune WAAHHHHH@! It does WORK REAL good though and I am having fun with it. If I could find a nice little enclosure that was about the size of my OHR SCAF Hmmmmmm.....I did drop a check in the mail for a 38S today. I

was not going to get one (I need another 30 meter rig like a hole in the head!) but after reading about all of the fun that you guys are having I just could not be left out! Maybe I will have to get a enclosure for the 38s that will match the new keyer enclosure that I have not bought yet! I just hope that there are some left by the time that my check gets there. Knowing my luck I will end up with number 501 #8^9 I do want to get a Sierra, but by the time that you add the KC-2 and the band modules and and we are talking some serious BUX! Just gotta keep saving those pennies! And I do mean pennies, my oldest son (12 yrs) was just diagnosed with Tourettes Syndrome and the doctors and the meds are absolutley wiping out all of what little money I had for QRP WAAHHH@! There, now I feel better! At least we now know what has been bothering the guy and can get him some help....(Thank you Lord, I am not complaining really!)

Sorry for the rambling.....

Best 72 from CWCC (Colorado Whiners Club Central!)
Jess N0TFI
[HTTP://www.concentric.net](http://www.concentric.net)

p.s. Keep the 38S posts coming I am getting one now!

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: Scott Cranston <cranston@zk3.dec.com>
Subject: [10447] Learning CW Article
Message-ID: <9701301821.AA24205@alpha.zk3.dec.com>

Interesting Web Readings.....

Article: So You want to Lean Morse Code
by: N1IZR
URL: <http://griffy.nmt.edu/sara/sara/finley.morse.html>

Article: Leaning Morse Code by The Kock Methode (Using SuperMorse)
by: N1IZR
URL: <http://griffy.nmt.edu/sara/sara/finley.sm404.html>

Article: Why CW
By: W9PPG
URL: <http://www.parlorcity.com/secop/n9pxk.html> (Part 1)
<http://www.parlorcity.com/secop/billcode.html> (Part 2)
<http://www.parlorcity.com/secop/cwfun.html> (Part 3)

Article: A CW Recev'n Course N05
By: AE5V
URL: <http://www.bayou.com/~bscott/cw5.html>

Article: Many...
By: KB7QOP
URL: <http://www.compumedia.com/~treit/mike.html>

.... plus GigaBytes more stuff out ther in Web land to surf....

Enjoy
Scot
KB1NW

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: nskousen@scientech.com (Niel Skousen)
Subject: [10420] N/T Fox TONITE !!
Message-ID: <v02140b00af1670b5dcec@[198.60.91.132]>

See you all TONITE...

==== Novice/Tech+ Fox =====

WA7SSA Niel Skousen
Thur. 1.30.97 7:00-9:00pm MST
Fri 1.31.97 0200-0400 UTC
FREQ 7.112 +/-
RIG FT-757 @ 3.5w (may try NorCal 40 1st hr... :-)
ANT Inv.V @ 28 ft, legs E-W
QTH Idaho Falls, ID
QRP-L #119

TNX es GL
73
Niel

Niel Skousen: Sr.Eng, SCIENTECH.SPG/CFG nskousen@scientech.com
208.525.3742, FAX 529.4721 Idaho Falls ID WA7SSA QRP-L.119
Z-----srv.test-----DN33wm--- . . . -

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: "Michael A. Gipe" <mgipe@reliablemeters.com>
Subject: [10374] NC38S: Keyer mod suggestion
Message-ID: <199701300049.SAA00783@multi13.netcomi.com>

I just finished putting the Tick keyer mod into my NC38S. I summed the Tick sidetone into the audio op amp input as suggested by Brad Mitchell, and it works just fine.

One more thing that you MUST do, though, is replace D8 with a wire jumper. Although the input of the 74HC240 gate which you remove from the circuit when switching to the Tick sidetone does have unbalanced leakage such that it will settle to a logic 0, the current provided is so small that it may take several minutes to settle, drawing excessive current, and it will forever be sensitive to noise.

Mike K1MG

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: Roger Hightower <n7kt@dancris.com>
Subject: [10457] NC38S: Keying thump
Message-ID: <199701302100.OAA23025@dancris.com>

I've been reading the messages about the keying thump with the TiCK keyer mod. I now have the basic NC38S dompleted, no smoke, nice signals into the rcvr, and tuning is 10.112-10.132. But it thumps when I key it. No TiCK mod yet.

Anyone else? Any ideas?

72/73, de Roger, N7KT Mesa, AZ Grid DM43cj

QRP-ARCI 8946, CQC 176, G-QRP 9081, NE-QRP 383, NorCal 1099, QRP-L 62

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: "STEVEN V. SELLMEYER" <ss94239@navix.net>

Subject: [10391] Nebr FSFD/WB0QPA
Message-ID: <32F048AA.59A4@navix.net>

Finally got in touch with Dale (WB0QPA) tonight and here is his report of contacts and comments. He was running a KW TS-830 @ 100 watts into an HF-6 vertical. Said he wanted to make sure he was heard! His qsl address is Dale Johnson 3534 N. 66th St. Lincoln, NE. 68507. Dale requests SASE to get a card so please note that one. Myself (WB0QQT) a SASE is not needed. I only heard 6 of you and Dale copied 12. He also stated he heard nothing on 15M for half an hour so switched to 20M and made all his contacts there. He too stated he would like to do it again soon. Anyway here is his log:

W4DON....NC....DON....559
AB6MY....AZ....Gary....539
N4BP....FL....Bob....579
WA8LCZ....MI....Byron....559
KE4YH....FL....Stew....579
KC4O....KY....Roy....579
WB2ZOL....NY....Ted....559
N1NM....CT....Al....579
KW7NS....?....?....529
KG2G....FL....Bert....579
W3TFA....MD....Stan....579

Now that I've got MY feet wet, I might give the Spartan Sprint a try!!!

72's and again thanks to all!!!
Steve/WB0QQT and Dale/WB0QPA in Lincoln, NE

P.S. If only those Omahans knew what they were missing! And while on the subject.....are there any other Nebraskans out there running QRP???

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: Stan Goldstein <stan@cruzio.com>
Subject: [10400] need 24v zener & mmic -1
Message-ID: <32F03851.5302@cruzio.com>

Hi Group,

To finish the spectrum analyzer adapter project that was on here last month, I need a few few non-locally available parts .

Thanks if you can help.

here's what I need ;

- 1 . 1n4749A zener . 24 volts . 1watt.
2. A mar-1 mmic (marked ao1, with a brown dot) or a mav -1 .

Thanks,

Stan , N6XtraUgly

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: PDouglas12@aol.com
Subject: [10427] need advice
Message-ID: <970130110310_103729346@emout13.mail.aol.com>

Chuck,

I rely on your judgment. Is the below letter (not yet sent) rash?
Incidentally, I made up with Bruce. He's such a baby.

PJD

Jim,

I am very flattered by your invitation. I am, however, not willing at this time to become active in the organization. I am not comfortable saying this, and hope you hold my comments in confidence. I have a number of friends who are insiders, as you probably know. Please forgive my bluntness, but I won't work with Myron. This is not personal. He has been a fine and pleasant gentleman with me at all times. But my experiences with him (Dayton Rooms) confirm what I have been told by others who depend on him in ARCI. I don't know whether you and Myron are close/friends, so I suppose I am taking some risk of losing a friend by saying these things. Can't be helped.

72,

Preston Douglas WJ2V

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: n7kt@dancris.com
Subject: [10396] New E-mail address
Message-ID: <199701300522.WAA23805@dancris.com>

Well, my local provider was obviously oversubscribed, and I finally got tired of the busies and no-answers.

I have unsubscribed/subscribed to the list, but for those couple of you who I am waiting mail from, the new address is:

n7kt@dancris.com

72/73 de Roger, N7KT
(Have to work on the sig line tmrw)

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: "Adam B. Kanis" <adam-kanis@uiowa.edu>
Subject: [10394] Newbie intro and questions
Message-ID: <2.2.32.19970130045316.0067fc6c@molsun.ophth.uiowa.edu>

Hi all.

I've been lurking for a few days and have been impressed how civil and friendly this list is. I'd like to introduce myself and start picking your brains.

My name is Adam, I got my Tech/Tech+ ticket about 1980, though my N2BRT call has gotten almost no on-air time, due to an assortment of reasons. I'm now employed and own land with trees (leaf bearing wire antenna supports) on some high ground in rural Iowa, so it's finally time to build a station. QRP operation on kit-built or homebrew equipment is what I'm interested in, as well as some 2M FM.

Since it's been some time since I've done any circuitry playing, I decided I wouldn't start with a tranciever, but with something simpler and less expensive to work out the rust. I've ordered a TenTec regenerative multiband receiver to tackle. W1AW code practice be useful in upping my pitiful code (I've decided to make it a high priority to get my General or Advanced license to take advantage of the wider band opportunities). After that is completed and working, I'm looking at getting a NorCal 40a kit (assuming it can be constructed for the Novice sub-band). Other proposed purchases:

- o Carolina Beam 80 or Carolina Windom 80 wire antenna from RadioWorks. To be placed about 35 feet up in trees.
- o MFJ 949 (Tuner/SWR-Wattmeter/DummyLoad)
- o Straight key

Q: what test equipment (and in what order) should I buy or build. I now only have a DVM (VOM modes only, no capacitance or freq measure). MFJ has its SWR Analyzer with built in frequency counter, would I be smart in getting that, or pay more and get two separate instruments.

Q: any comments/suggestions on the tranceiver, antenna, tuner choices.

Q: who sells a decent (please not too expensive) straight key? I think I'd better develop a good fist on the straight key before using any keyers.

Thanks in advance. Looking forward to getting my feet wet. Feel free to reply to list (though I only get the once-a-day digest) or to me by Email.

--adam

Adam B. Kanis, N2BRT/0
adam-kanis@uiowa.edu

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: "Dean Marzocca" <n2tnn@ifu.net>
Subject: [10440] NJ today
Message-ID: <199701301757.MAA19299@mail.ifu.net>

Any one out there calling NJ???? I am on 10.110 and listening.

Give a call and get me in the books.

72/73, Dean, NJ, N2TNN, QRP-L # 560

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: Jerry Parker <jparker@fix.net>
Subject: [10404] NorCal Meeting
Message-ID: <2.2.32.19970130063338.00ba7044@fix.net>

OK, I confess I got this from Doug and remodeled it for February.

Hope to see you there!!!

The February meeting of the NorCal QRP Club will be held as usual Sunday February 2nd at the California Burger Restaurant, located off the Santa Rita Exit of I580 West of Livermore and East of Pleasanton. The California Burger is located in the small shopping center behind the Shell Station across the street from McDonald's Restaurant. If you are coming from Livermore, take the Santa Rita exit, and you will come to a stop light. Turn left and go over the freeway. You will come to a traffic signal. Turn left, and you will notice a McDonald's on your left, and a Shell station on your right. Take the first right turn, (about 107 yards, 2 feet and 7 1/4 inches from the intersection) and you will be in a small shopping center. The California Burger is in the SouthWest corner of the shopping center. Look for all of the cars, you can't miss it.

If you are coming from Pleasanton, take the Santa Rita exit to your right. You will come to a traffic light. Go straight across the street, and you will see the McDonald's and Shell Station. Same directions as above.

Remember, if you have never been to a QRP meeting, this is not like all of the other meetings you go to. It starts about 10:30 and ends about 1:30 or so. No rules, no minutes, no new business, no old business, just a get together of QRPers who want to meet and share QRP information with others of like interests. Our meeting is entirely social, and those who attend always seem to enjoy themselves. If you come, bring along your latest project to share with the rest of us, we want to see and admire it, probably steal a couple of your ideas in our next project, but we will have fun!

Jerry ... WA6OWR ... K

The NorCal Page

<http://www.fix.net/norcal.html>

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: ukii@megsinet.net (ukii)
Subject: [10384] ok,no smoke BUT...
Message-ID: <01BC0E26.97396B40@randolph2e3-20.megsinet.net>

Well,I might have blown something out when I hooked L1 into L101.
I put it where it should be and have zero audio...
Oh well,time to get out the BIG magnifying glass!
thanks for the help...

john
n9ukx

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: Frank G3YCC <g3ycc@gqrpclub.demon.co.uk>
Subject: [10445] OWF into the house, and other antenna thoughts
Message-ID: <854647437.10419.0@gqrpclub.demon.co.uk>

Getting open wire feeder into the shack has proved to be a headache for years and some ingenious methods have been described. An antenna nut friend of mine hit on an idea which has proved successful, although maybe a little unconventional.

Terminate the OWF outside the shack and solder to it a SHORT length of 300 ohm ribbon. This is used to enter the shack. Losses - none, or at least not measureable. What about the mismatch - doesn't matter. I said it was unconventional, but it is easier to get 300 ohm ribbon inside than your OWF and with say 3 or 4 feet it ain't gonna make a scrap of difference to your set-up.

About SWR, I think we worry far too much about it and getting the magical (?) 1:1. Surely we should concentrate more on field strength rather than what SWR. As far as OWF is concerned, forget SWR! It doesn't matter one little bit. The feeder is designed for minimal losses and, provided it is matched to the rig via a balanced matching unit, provides the best feeder you can use.

Who ever coined the term Antenna Tuning Unit, a worse misnomer I can't imagine, because no fancy configuration of an 'ATU' can in fact tune the antenna. The only way to do that is to physically alter the antenna itself. It should be called an antenna matching unit, as that's what it does - match the antenna to the rig. Perhaps we should call it an antenna transformer, for that is what it is basically?

Well, that's my lot for today!

---72/3---Frank G3YCC G QRP 042
QTHR (Kirk Ella, East Yorkshire)
QRP Web sites: <http://www.gqrpclub.demon.co.uk>
<http://www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/5179>

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997

From: "Kent R. Olson" <kolson@polaristel.net>
Subject: [10375] Postpone mail
Message-ID: <32EFFC85.299B@polaristel.net>

Please postpone sending me QRP-L messages, as I will be unable to receive them for the near future. Thank You.

Kent

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: "J. Skalski" <jskalski@acsu.buffalo.edu>
Subject: [10466] qrp homebrewers?/brewers
Message-ID:
<Pine.GS0.3.95.970130181235.11328B-100000@conciliator.acsu.buffalo.edu>

Are there any qrp'ers that also are home-brewers?
(As in zymurgy)

I would be interested it hearing from others that have experimented with advanced brewing techniques...includes converted 1/2 Keg systems, RIMS, electronic temperature control systems, access to stainless steel fixtures and centrifugal pumps. May be able to trade for parts or equipment useful for radio homebrews. I have a huge stockpile of radio parts.

73,

Jim N2GO
The Buffalo QRP CONNECTION
ARCI #9013 QRP-L #381
Life member ARRL
jskalski@acsu.Buffalo.EDU

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: aa7uf@juno.com (Gerald L Marsh)
Subject: [10392] QRP on a cruise?
Message-ID: <19970129.202521.3790.0.AA7UF@juno.com>

Does anyone out there have experience running QRP on a cruise?

As I understand it, as a minimum one needs authorization from the Ship's

Captain, and also licensing from the country of the Ship's registry (in my case Panama).

Then there is the issue of a reasonable antenna. I'm looking at 20M.

I'd like to hear from any of you who have had experience in this.

Jerry - AA7UF
Olympia Wa
aa7uf@juno.com

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: dcscott@us.ibm.com
Subject: [10461] RF coupling question
Message-ID: <5030100004061705000002*@MHS>

Classification:
Prologue: Dale C. Scott
IBM -- Engineering Technology Solutions
(206) 587-2784 8/277-2784
Epilogue: Internet: (work) dcscott@us.ibm.com
(home) dcscott@ibm.net
OV/VM: dcscott@ibmusm52

Hi gang,
I'm contemplating putting the NC38SP and the Rainbow tuner in the same enclosure (still searching for that 'perfect' tin). If I package these two together without some form of shielding between them am I likely to run into problems?

Thanks,
72--kc7khd/dale

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: Larry East <w1hue@amsat.org>
Subject: [10455] S38 Keying Thumps
Message-ID: <2.2.16.19970130201126.36071974@eloi>

OK folks, here's my well-analyzed-but-maybe-totally-off-the-wall-'cuz-I-ain't- tried-it-yet-solution to the problem:

According to the original schematic from the NorCal WEB page (sorry, I don't have the "new improved" version with me at the moment), I note that there is a 0.01uF bypass cap (C18 on the old schematic) at the output of the CMOS

switch (pin 11) which switches the output of the NE602 product detector to the audio amp chain. My (can't-possibly-be-wrong-'cuz-I-did-it) analysis indicates that when the switch closes the first time, a small DC voltage will be applied across the cap which will result in a "thump" being heard. However, since I see no discharge path for the cap, this really shouldn't cause a "thump" on every key closure. However, maybe adding the TiCK keyer circuitry provides a discharge path -- check it out on the schematic that comes with the kit (again I don't have it available). If that is the case, then it should be possible to solve the problem by inserting a cap (1.0uF or so) between pins 9 and 10 of the switch and adding a 10K or so resistor from pin 10 to ground.

You tried it and it didn't work, you say??? GAD! Back to the drawing board... :-(

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: George Gingell <k3tks@u1.abs.net>
Subject: [10397] Salesman of the year Award?
Message-ID: <Pine.BSI.3.93.970130001411.16371B-100000@u1.abs.net>

First of all I would like to express my thanks to LDG Electronics for making such a handy dandy pair of Automatic Antenna Tuners, The AT-11 and it's QRP Little brother. A special thanks to Scott Rosenfeld, NF3I for all of his efforts in making this group purchase a resounding success. I will now have a pair of them, "QRO & QRP". A special note to the other purchasers. If we each add about \$2.00 to our order payment, Scott will get a "FREE ATU KIT". A small way to say thanks. IMHO I don't know if anyone else tallied up the results, but my quick estimate puts the actual sales at over \$10,000.00 and that ain't monopoly money! A bit over \$13,000 market value. My hat is off to all involved. Heck, I might even buy one more if I get my retirement check in time. :-) (I really wanted another QRP model for the field box). Maybe I can buy one of those QRO extras and trade it. :-)

TKS! TKS! TKS!

QRP DX TU (C) 1986 G.Danny Gingell, K3TKS@.abs.net
Maryland Milliwatt QRP Reference Library, (301)572-6789

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: teixeira@ccnet.com (T E I X E I R A)
Subject: [10371] SG-230 Auto Tuner

Message-ID: <v01520d02af1528afecd3@[206.80.32.148]>

>

>I am thinking about trying out the SG-230 auto-tuner with some wire antenna
>or other at home. Ever use one? Anything you liked or not?

>

>Please let me know. Tnx, Bob N9GG

Bob,

The USS Pampanito Amateur Radio Club NJ6VT (a WWII Submarine on San Francisco, CA.) uses a SG-230 auto tuner with a Yeasu FT890 to a 115' longwire. It works great from 10 meters to 160 meter. All you do is turn it on and wait for the green light. They run 100 watts so I can't say how it works for QRP.

Check out K6DF s page for more info & picutre:

<http://www.ccnet.com/~wa6jvz/>

Regards,
Don W6IQ
Fremont, CA

(ex-N6FNL) QRP-L #328

Acoustic Music <http://www.ccnet.com/~teixeira>

Amateur Radio <http://www.ccnet.com/~teixeira/W6IQ.html>

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: KR4GL@aol.com
Subject: [10460] Should I get a Straight Key or
Message-ID: <970130154315_1078289564@emout07.mail.aol.com>

I vote for the straight key, to start out.

I have never mastered using the iambic part of a keyer, and the built-in timing makes me insert extra dits quite often. Since I don't squeeze the thing and rather effectively use it as side to side key, it isn't any faster then a properly used straight key.

Get a good straight key, either a well made classic or the Bencher model, at

\$75.00. You'll always be able to use it, either in the field or inhouse, before you get that keyer circuit added to the new rig you just put together.

My opinion and worth just that.

de KR4GL
John Foote

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: "SDULANEY" <sdulaney@ccmail.dsccc.com>
Subject: [10372] Should I get a Straight Key or Iambic Keyer (mod. long)
Message-ID: <9700298545.AA854591083@ccmail.dsccc.com>

I have decided to learn code and upgrade so I to can send CW. The 38S kit is what gave me the motivation. So what better place than here to ask for a recommendation of initial type of key to get and use.

A friend here at work recommends a straight key. His reason is that you will learn to send correctly and not get into bad habit's. I asked for a opinion from another friend, he said go straight to a keyer. His reason is based on personal experience. When he initially began send code, with a straight key, it was so garbled (his timing was off) no one understood him.

I am asking for your opinion. I will be happy to summarize the responses and make a post to the list.

Please no flames. I am asking here because I consider a key/keyer an integral part of qrp.

Thanks
Steve
KC5FFK
sdulaney@ccmail.dsccc.com

1. Should I get a straight key or keyer?

2. Why?

3. If you were buying a keyer which mfg./model would you get in the following price ranges.

\$0-\$50

\$50-\$75

\$75-\$100

4. Who would you purchase from?

** Any opinions expressed in this post are mine and not my employer.**

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: Kevin Anderson <anderson@ncrsun1.ncr.usace.army.mil>
Subject: [10438] sodium street lights QRN
Message-ID: <Pine.SUN.3.91.970130100823.6136A-100000@ncrsun1>

I'm hoping you folks have similar problems. I've regularly have to call the local power utility (which maintains city streetlights under contract) about streetlights, the orange sodium kind, having bad starters or something. It seems there is always one within a block of me that constantly cycles on and off, about ever minute or two. They get that one fixed, and sure enough another light pole develops the problem.

What RFI Hash it creates!@! Pretty much wipes reception for 20-30 seconds. And this every few minutes. Are these HF electronic lights or something? Please enlighten me.

BTW, 40M is where I operate, and where I hear it the most. Sorry to bring it up here, but operating QRP, it sure creates problems. Actually I hoping you folks aren't suffering from this, and it is only me :-).

Cheers/73. Kevin, KB9IUA, Rock Island IL, QRP-L
home: kb9iua@juno.com

* * * * *
Kevin L. Anderson Ph.D., CENCR-PD-W, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Rock Island District Office, Planning Division-Waterway Systems
Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004, USA phone: (309) 794-5586

e-mail: anderson@ncrsun1.ncr.usace.army.mil

* * * * *

Opinions expressed here are my own and do not represent the
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or the Federal Government.

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: adams@chuck.dallas.sgi.com (Chuck Adams)
Subject: [10418] Straight Key
Message-ID: <199701301517.PAA20288@chuck.dallas.sgi.com>

OK, gang, lots of email on this one.

I'm in the middle of five weeks straight from
Haydes. So after next week when I get back
from the NorCal meeting and a week in Sunny
Northern CA, I'll put some photos on the web
page.

Everyone that I got email from complaining that
they can't do more than 12 wpm and also get
cramps has taught themselves and they have their
arm, wrist, fingers etc in the wrong position.
So we'll try some Elmering via the web.

Also, watch the web for the code stuff. I'll
take anyone who is now at zero wpm. We can do
this stuff remote control. You'll have to
spend \$20 with the ARRL.

I need some club to come up with a complete
code oscillator. Yes, I know that the ARRL book
and other places have circuits etc. But remember
we have people all over the country at all skill
levels. Trying to cut down on the overhead.

More to follow.

dit dit

OH, those that have been wondering, I have been
mailing stuff out this week, so if I owed you
something it's on its way. No checks though. :-)

SIG

Chuck Adams K5FO adams@sgi.com

http://reality.sgi.com/employees/adams_dallas/

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: gsurrency@juno.com (Gary L Surrency)
Subject: [10470] T/R offsets (long)
Message-ID: <19970130.164444.9990.2.gsurrency@juno.com>

Gang,

All of my S&S rigs, tune to the exact frequency of the received signal, mix that with a LO and send the resulting 12.00035 Mhz IF to the MC3361 product detector to be mixed with a BFO of approx. 11.99975 Mhz for an approximate audio signal of 600-700 hz.

The transmitter oscillator frequency is adjustable to insure it transmits on exactly the correct frequency, independent of the LO frequency.

In this manner, the rig is tuned to the exact frequency that has maximum amplitude, the IF passes the strongest mixed frequency thru the xtal filter, and the BFO achieves the desired audio frequency by adjustment.

When I aligned the rigs, I listened and transmitted on an adjacent rig so that the audio filter, bfo, sidetone, and transmitter oscillator mixer adjustment all produce nearly the exact audio tone when going from xmit to rcv. This was on EACH radio, so that during a QSO, any slight differences in frequency of the other station can be compensated with small adjustments of the RIT. That way, we don't "walk" up or down the band as we chase each other, since some people prefer a different CW tone.

IMHO, that is the "proper" way to set the BFO, audio filter, sidetone, and transmitter oscillator so that they all coordinate together. For me, it results in less fatigue during long operation.

This procedure is real close to what Dick Szakonyi at S&S describes in the excellent manuals. The only thing different I do, is I alter the sidetone frequency, audio filter, and/or BFO frequency so everything matches. I think Emtech also advocates this. I had to adjust the op amp sidetone oscillator feedback resistors a little to put it "spot-on", but I would recommend everybody seek their personal favorite sidetone/audio filter frequencies and select matched resistors using a DVM to achieve this.

Better results can be had than by just using 1% resistors, since 1% of 150k or 180K can be a lot more than what I settle for; only 100-200 ohms difference on the DVM. Some of the 1/4w 5% tolerance resistors vary

considerably from resistor to resistor. Match 'em by hand for the af filter / sidetone oscillator.

It only takes a little while before you solder in the resistors to choose what you like best. The ARK30 is around 700hz, the TAC-1s are near 630hz. This is regarding the sidetone AND audio filter center freq. Measurements of the audio frequency were made using the frequency counter function of my DVM, while peak af amplitude was observed on a VOM across the audio output.

During alignment, I tune the LO slightly to put maximum received signal amplitude into the xtal filter when tuned to the indicated digital display frequency. Maximum AGC voltage is developed when the passband is centered in the xtal filter. This keeps you from being on one side or the other of the xtal filter's bandpass "skirts". You can even tell by the sound of the developed audio hiss from the speaker when it is "right". The BFO adjustment sets the required audio tone.

Amazing what an improvement this little bit of effort makes, to say nothing of the satisfaction derived from customizing circuits in the rig you use constantly. A good alignment may make the difference between a "good" radio and an "excellent" one.

Other opinions, observations, or ideas on this are welcome. Post them so we all can learn.

72/73,

Gary Surrency AB7MY
S&S TAC-1(40&80m) and ARK30
QRP-L #571 Chandler, AZ (near Phoenix) Grid Square DM43BH

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: "Jim Wilson-EJW012" <Jim_Wilson-EJW012@email.mot.com>
Subject: [10436] The QRM Chronicles

From: Wilson-EJW012 Jim on Thu, Jan 30, 1997 11:57 AM
Subject: The QRM Chronicles

The QRM Chronicles: The recent discussion of power line noise (Boatanchors list) and Halogen lamp noise (QRP list) prompted me to summarize some of my worst cases of QRM, with the hope that they may help someone else. I do lots of low frequency listening (below 500 KHz) and noise control is one of the major secrets to success. Perhaps I've watched too many episodes of the 'X Files', but my QRM philosophy can be summarized by: "The Noise is Out There" and "Trust Nothing".

Case #1: 'The Attic...' - When I lived in the north east my shack was in the partially finished attic. I had been working on restoring an R-390A and thought I had some front-end problem because I had lots of noise and broadcast band intermod. So I spent more time than I should have looking for a receiver problem. Finally I turned on the NRD-525 and, as you guessed, heard the same problem. Next step is walking around the house and outside with the AM portable -- all over the house and also in the front and back yard. Walk around the neighbor's houses and nothing. Gads, it me. Back to the attic. Started finding spots in the attic that were really bad. The ceiling rafters were covered with those packs of insulation -- itchy pink stuff inside of silver looking paper/foil backing. First step was to touch a ground wire to the silver outer layer while listening -- a change is heard.

Tried a few other spots and they all benefited from grounding. I daisy-chained a few on them together with clip leads and grounded that -- much better. Finally I decided to run a bare copper wire (stranded antenna wire) around the whole perimeter, stapling it to the rafters and tack soldering (carefully) the foil. Ground the end and the noise and intermod is gone. On a whim I put an LED in series with this and had a very nice red glow! Trust Nothing.

Case #2: 'The Alarm...' - When I moved to south FL, the house had an alarm system installed -- the kind with foil tape on windows and magnetic and other normally closed switches on doors and windows. The unit also connects to the phone lines to auto-dial the security company. Needless to say, all that wire and foil makes a great antenna to radiate the microprocessor noise.

There was no on/off switch. Simply unplugging the AC step-down transformer doesn't help since it has battery back-up. It was necessary to install a pair of heavy duty switches to toggle off both power sources every time I want to listen to the radio. This takes care of mine, but naturally the neighbor's all contribute to the noise floor. The Noise is Out There.

Case #3: 'More Security...' - My new house had flood lamps all around the perimeter and I decided it would be a lot cheaper, and maybe more effective, if I replaced them with the passive infrared (PIR) 'motion sensor' type. Well, even when they are not on, but are in standby, they radiate lots of noise. Solution, make sure you have a master override switch (I did) to really turn them off. Government Denies Knowledge.

Case #4: 'The Over Active Antenna...' - Back to the north. I had a roof mounted Dressler Active HF Antenna. I know these things can overload at times and create intermod and spurs, well this one caused intermod galore even when I was not using it. It was necessary to keep it un-plugged and to ground its lead-in to suppress the intermod. When I moved south, it was retired to a shelf in my shack.

Case #5: 'The Tuned House...' - There have been a few comments over the years here about the effects of capacitive loads on AC house wiring. I've

found I've been able to 'tune out' some local power line induced/radiated noise by putting AC line filters at different points in the house wiring, i. e., plugging them into outlets that were not, themselves, the culprit. But as I say, this is a tuning effect and may decrease noise at some frequencies of interest, while having no effect, or even increasing the noise at other frequencies.

Case #6: 'The Wall Wart...' - My wife buys a lovely Halogen lamp with an innocent looking wall wart transformer. Nice light -- new noise. I go on my quest around the house with the portable AM radio and it all points to this new lamp even though it is turned off. I turn it on and BAM, its as bad as a dimmer switch. What could cause this? I make sure the bulb is making a good connection -- wiggle and jiggle everything but no change. Next I look at the 'Electronic Transformer' -- uh oh, 'Electronic'? Sure enough, this innocent little black box (made by Wang) is filled with a pair of MJE13005 NPN switches, a small toroid transformer, an array of rectifiers in a bridge formation and a small 12v/120v transformer. The p.c. board also shows a few missing components with screened capacitor symbols -- I guess they decided to leave out the RFI stuff, not that they would have done any good on this one. Interestingly, the 120 vac goes to the bridge rectifier, not the transformer. Needless to say, no amount of ferrite could fix this one. So I ended up replacing the switching wall wart with a larger (box mounted) transformer for a simple linear step-down (with enough oomph for a 50 W bulb).

Noise free for now, but The Noise is Out There. Trust Nothing.

jim

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: mykey@aztec.asu.edu (MICHAEL C. TODD)
Subject: [10451] Tick-1 w/NWxx
Message-ID: <9701301942.AA12198@aztec.asu.edu>

Is anyone using the Tick-1 with the EMTECH NWxx; If so, how?

tnx W9UQB Mike Phoenix, AZ

--

[B[C

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: "Bob Tellefsen-CNSE97" <Bob_Tellefsen-CNSE97@email.mot.com>
Subject: [10465] Trying to remember
Message-ID: <M1261479.002.ufpb2.1.970130225600Z.CC-MAIL*/OU=LMPCC10/OU=ILBE/
PRMD=MOT/ADMD=MOT/C=US/@MHS>

Recently I read an article about getting more linear tuning out of the varcap and potentiometer scheme we see in so many QRP rigs. I remember it involved adding a resistor or two to the pot, and a transistor as a constant current source, I think. Anyway, it was supposed to greatly improve the linearity of the tuning system.

Does anyone recall seeing this and remember where it was published? QRPP, QRP Quarterly, QST, CQ ...

Thanks and 72,
Bob N6WG

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: Michele Del Pup <delpup@mbx.vol.it>
Subject: [10413] TS-50 modifications
Message-ID: <32F11CC0.4D75@mbx.vol.it>

Hi

I already done mod to go really qrp 5 w out, but I' m looking if others are available. I'm looking to drive the rig with pc too is there people with experience on this matter ?

Tks 72 es 73 de I3MDU Mike
delpup@mbx.vol.it

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: nskousen@scientech.com (Niel Skousen)
Subject: [10428] Tube sources sought
Message-ID: <v02140b02af167d96e4cf@[198.60.91.132]>

SFTBW :-)

Does anyone have the number for Richardson Elect., looking for some scarce tubes here at work.... Any better sources for magnetrons ?

TNX Niel

----------
Niel Skousen: Sr.Eng, SCIENTECH.SPG/CFG nskousen@scientech.com
208.525.3742, FAX 529.4721 Idaho Falls ID WA7SSA QRP-L.119
Z----- .srv.test.-----DN33wm--- . . . -

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: Mike Robinson <miker@cc.com>
Subject: [10453] W1AW sked
Message-ID: <9701302004.AA17668@voder.nsc.com>

Bill,

Sorry I missed you, the only thing I could
hear in Colorado were 6's and 7's. The east
coast wasn't in at all. Thanks for the try.
We'll get it next time.

=====

7.3 de Michael N7MR	miker@cc.com	michael@frii.com
http://www.frii.com/~michael		
QRP-L #126	Norcal #857	CQC #180

=====

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: Richard Sherman <srichard@aldus.northnet.org>
Subject: [10376] W22T FSFD from New York
Message-ID: <3.0.16.19970130013916.334fe068@aldus.northnet.org>

Hi All,

Okay, the KY1H propagation prediction program says this will work FB:

2/1	1600z-1800z	15M	21.055 and 21.120
	1800z-2000z	20M	14.061

2/2	0100z-0200z	40M	7.042 and 7.121
	0200z-0400z	80M	3.555 and 3.705

I'm open to skeds with anyone for other times or freqs.
Please note: Novice frequency operation will be the first 15 minutes of
the hour more or less. Please folks on the West Coast, I know it's early
but that's the only time I seem to be hearing and working CA. Hope to work

everybody before the season premiere of MST3K, can't miss it. Then pick back up again after Star Trek :-)

72 de Rick WZ2T
srichard@northnet.org

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: john andrews <jm165723@eee.org>
Subject: [10407] Re: Caps - Markings - Good Grief Charlie Brown
Message-ID: <32F05A9F.2A46@eee.org>

KA5T Larry Wise wrote:

>

Hi Larry and Group:

Yep... Been there, done that.

Some of my stuff is just marked "100 5%", the others have the type markings you indicate. I *believe* ARCO is the last US mfg making silver mica caps. I could be wrong.
I've got a lot of catalogs. Most of the time I can have a look at one or two catalogs and figure the actual value based on the item or stock number.

I sort a LOT of stuff and yeah, it's a pain to test stuff but a fast n' nasty method is spelled out in "Solid State Design for the Radio Amateur" by Hayward and DeMaw. Pg 168 Chap 7.

They use a bridge at audio frequencies to determine values as low as a few pF. I use the same system with a NE-555 at about 1000Hz. It never has failed to find the correct value and takes only a few seconds. Less than a dozen parts and goes together in 10 minutes.

The only reason I'm even bringing up testing is that surplus parts are suspect from the word 'go'. AND...If it wasn't for surplus and used, how many of us would have the money to experiment?

FWIW,
John, N5INZ

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: drowe@juno.com
Subject: [10423] Re: CW issues
Message-ID: <19970130.105055.10983.2.drowe@juno.com>

On Thu, 30 Jan 1997 12:28:12 GMT adams@chuck.dallas.sgi.com (Chuck Adams) writes:

>
>Gang,
>
>First, all you guys/girls with no code experience.
>If you are about to start, send me email and we'll
>take the issues offline.
>
>Do start with a straight key. To do otherwise is
>a big mistake. A REAL BIG mistake. Don't listen
>to the nay-sayers. You can send almost perfectly
>spaced code with a straight key. I worked a 14 yr
>old on 30M two years ago doing 20wpm and his code
>was almost perfect. You can do it too.
>
>Yes, you will want to go to Iambic paddles and
>keyers later in life, but you gotta walk before
>you can run. There are some subtle and not so
>subtle psychological and mental factors at work
>here. Attitude is everything. Work is essential.
>You won't get there with a free ride.
>
>So if you have 30minutes a day we can get you to
>20 wpm before the end of the year. Start early,
>stay late. :-)
>
>Email to me only. We don't need a thread on this
>old worn out topic. :-)
>
>dit dit
>
>SIG
>Chuck Adams K5FO adams@sgi.com
>http://reality.sgi.com/employees/adams_dallas/
>
>
seconded, Kc1di 30 years + Cw op both military & ham .

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: w2gum@juno.com
Subject: [10425] Re: CW issues
Message-ID: <19970130.112712.8183.1.w2gum@juno.com>

On Thu, 30 Jan 1997 10:50:35 EST drowe@juno.com writes:

>

>On Thu, 30 Jan 1997 12:28:12 GMT adams@chuck.dallas.sgi.com (Chuck
>Adams) writes:

>>

>>Gang,

>>

>>First, all you guys/girls with no code experience.

>>If you are about to start, send me email and we'll

>>take the issues offline.

>>

>>Do start with a straight key. To do otherwise is
>>a big mistake. A REAL BIG mistake. Don't listen
>>to the nay-sayers. You can send almost perfectly
>>spaced code with a straight key. I worked a 14 yr
>>old on 30M two years ago doing 20wpm and his code
>>was almost perfect. You can do it too.

>>

>>Yes, you will want to go to Iambic paddles and
>>keyers later in life, but you gotta walk before
>>you can run. There are some subtle and not so
>>subtle psychological and mental factors at work
>>here. Attitude is everything. Work is essential.
>>You won't get there with a free ride.

>>

>>So if you have 30minutes a day we can get you to
>>20 wpm before the end of the year. Start early,
>>stay late. :-)

>>

>>Email to me only. We don't need a thread on this
>>old worn out topic. :-)

>>

>>dit dit

>>

>>SIG

>>Chuck Adams K5FO adams@sgi.com

>>http://reality.sgi.com/employees/adams_dallas/

>>

>>

>seconded, Kc1di 30 years + Cw op both military & ham .

seconded again 63 years + Old brass pounder Sig Corps & ham Tony
W2GUM.

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997

From: w77kxb@juno.com (William Harris)
Subject: [10441] Re: CW issues
Message-ID: <19970130.105528.4855.2.w77kxb@juno.com>

Tony:

I also agree with starting out on a hand key and working up.
Bill Harris...W7KXB
X-Brasspounder, Military, Commercial and Ham (50 yrs)
That and \$!.00 will get you a cup of coffee in most
restaurants across the nation.

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: Rick Sealey <rsealey@InfoAve.Net>
Subject: [10411] Re: Deliberate CW QRM?
Message-ID: <1.5.4.32.19970130123229.00a6a040@mail.infoave.net>

Joe:

At 08:32 AM 1/29/97 -0700, you wrote:

--<SNIP>--
If your sked continues to
experience the QRM, perhaps you could get on the
landline, turn down each of your rigs' volume,
and use the sidetone via the phone to continue.
Soon the QRM will go away, since they aren't
getting a reaction or having any effect.
--<SNIP>--

Absolutely right about ignoring a QRMer, but I never considered this
method...great idea!

Rick - KI4PZ

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: haf47@juno.com (HOWARD A FRIEDMAN)
Subject: [10424] Re: Deliberate CW QRM?
Message-ID: <19970130.110454.8247.0.haf47@juno.com>

.Hi Bob, I'm awfully sorry to hear that you got jammed. This has been a
problem that has been noted inham radio since 1910. Fortunately it
doesn't happen all the time, but when it does is sure is discouraging, as

you have noted. I don't have an answer, but do hope you don't give in to these idiots. Try to keep in mind all of the great QSO's you've had that were successful. Best of luck es 73, Howie

>I've only been a ham for a little over two years, and got into it
>specifically to work CW. It was quite a shock last night to be messed
>with like this.

>

>Anyway, there it is. If it's not appropriate to respond to the list,
>Email me direct if you feel like it. I just wish there was something

>we

>could DO about it.

>

>73 de Bob/KB2SGM

><bmarsh@hicom.net>

>.

haf47@juno.com

WA2AFD @ WA2UMX.NY

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997

From: dwink@juno.com (Daniel C Winkler)

Subject: [10422] Re: Deliberate CW QRM? ; ob QRP thumps.

Message-ID: <19970130.074226.4951.1.DWink@juno.com>

On Wed, 29 Jan 1997 08:32:56 -0700 (MST) Joe Gervais <vole@primenet.com>
writes:

>

>Bob (KB2SGM) wrote:

>>...deliberate qrm...

>

>You must realize that the *only* reason they QRM

>is to screw people up and get a reaction out of

>them.

Joe,

I hve to disagree with you, somewhat. I think it is more complex than that. Once a rewarding behavior is established (in this case QRMing; and the initial reward WAS recognition, I grant that), that behavior will take on a life of its own.

When you try to extinguish behaviors in rats, you have to take the reward away for a long time. If you OCCASIONALLY reward the rat...the

behavior becomes STRONGER- that is, even more difficult to extinguish, as measured by how long it takes for the behavior to completely subside in the absence of reward. The very best way to establish a strong behavior is to reward it INTERMITTANTLY. Such as we do when we only sometimes react to the interference.

Add to that the fact that we have here TWO individuals. They can reward eachother, and don't need much feedback, if any, from you. Yes, eventually they will give up in the absence of reward, but what if the perceived reward is simply to have caused you to QSY?

So don't expect ignoring them to work quickly. But I love your suggestion of cw on the landline. Perhaps a little expensive, but it might also be a little comforting to get a little voice-to-voice in there, too.

I might add that punishing a behavior WILL extinguish the behavior quickly. At least in rats. In people you have to make sure that the "punishment" is actually perceived as such. A good shock to the feet works great in rats, but is a little hard to apply here. Ostracism works great for NORMAL people, but may actually be perceived as a reward by the qrm'ers. A hefty fine and loss of operating privledges would probably work, but an unsuccessful search for the individuals would definitely be perceived a a BIG reward.

Don't go looking for these people unless you have a good chance of finding them.

Ob QRP (See, I can learn!): re Thumps and Bumps and large coupling caps:

I was sorry to hear that making C15 smaller (in the 38s) did not help the sidetone thumps. My question remains, why such a large value? (22uf in a circuit where lowest impedance is 1500 ohms.) I have seen this in numerous Heathkit rigs, in Dave Benson's rigs, in some of Doug DeMaw's rigs- many designers do this, but all my simulations show it to be unnecessary, and actually detrimental if you don't want low frequency (<150 Hz) hum and buzz cluttering up your audio. Comments?

73, ; D DWink@Juno.com Dan Winkler N7IVR Seattle, WA

-----whom the gods would destroy, they first make proud -----

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: Niels Jensen Kristjansson <nkristja@cadvision.com>
Subject: [10406] Re: Distinctive swing!!!
Message-ID: <1.5.4.16.19970129120645.1427842c@cadvision.com>

Hi gang!!

Regarding the disscussion on straight key or paddles.

Never thought I would get dragged into any kind of disscussion.
Consider learning to drive a car, learning to drive a car with a manual transmission (straight key) may seem a little tedious but the transition to automatic (paddles) will not be hard. Doing it the other way can be hard (ask my mother in law....). Lets walk before we run etc. etc....
The days of distincive "swing" are over!! HELLO wake up and smell the java Roger. A local group that is on the air, using both straight key and paddles, is so familiar with each others "fist" that we can tell who is transmitting just by their "swing". On the bench in my shack I have two straight keys (both home brew), a single lever Vibroplex and my OLD Vibroplex bug. What the OM on the other end is using I will use to. A nice fist on a straight key is like music and I can listen to it for hours on end, just like a good musisician playing his instrument with talent and "distinction". Ladies and gentlemen using a straight key "properly" it is an art. ;-)

Don't bother with the flames as I have a flameproof suit.

72 de Niels
VE6NJK/TF3NJ

: Argonaut 509, HW-7, Epiphite, 49-er on steroids.

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: w77kxb@juno.com (William Harris)
Subject: [10439] Re: FSFD Hints from the Pilot Seat
Message-ID: <19970130.104205.4855.1.w77kxb@juno.com>

Jim:

Regarding the frequency of operation. You said to pick something like 7,039.5 etc. You are refering to the carrier frequency, arn't you. My equipment runs with a -750 cycle off set on some bands, and +750 on

others. I have to plug this factor in to come up with the right digital read out. Now for those who have analog readout or those who run seperate xmit/rcvrs....Get's to be a can of worms. If we all understand that when a frequency is mentioned, we mean the carrier fq. not the digital readout freq. I hope I have the right grasp on this.

72's
Bill..W7KXB
Mesa, az.
30/1749z

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: Byron8LCZ@aol.com
Subject: [10450] re: FSFD Hints from the Pilot Seat
Message-ID: <970130131942_1246031111@emout20.mail.aol.com>

To that I would add:

If you say you're going to be on 21 mhz for one hour, then be there. if enough of you change bands after 10 min of no activity, the rest of us will stop looking for you. The bands are continually changing, if they arent open now, they might be, in 20 minutes. be persistan and stick to your schedule.

Didnt hear N2CQ on 21 mhz today but did work Iowa and Wash from Mich. So 15m isnt dead.

72, Byron WA8LCZ Detroit

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: NilsBull@aol.com
Subject: [10467] Re: halogen lamp QRM
Message-ID: <970130163738_506423414@emout20.mail.aol.com>

Throw the lamp away.

A couple weeks ago my wife and I went to the local Best Products joint -- the Best stores that are selling everything at ridiculous prices 'cause the company is going toes-up -- and bought some cheap junk. I got a desk for my computer stuff and Cindy got some other doodads, crystal wine gobblers +c. We looked at desk lamps and I picked out two. Cheap deal. No fancy bulbs. Cid said maybe we should get one of the halogen ones but I nixed that. Simple reasons:

1. They get too damn hot.
2. The light that they provide is downright lunar -- as in: standing on the moon without some kind of vision protectors... as in: too damn bright.
3. They make great RF generators.

Thus we got no halogen lamps for this cave.

Throw the lamp out.

73
Nils
WB8IJN +c

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: Jim Hydzik <congress@magpage.com>
Subject: [10452] Re:Hints from the Pilot Seat RX offset
Message-ID: <199701301907.0AA10083@alaska.magpage.com>

Bill, and those who wonder about this,

The typical rig from Japan today in the CW mode, displays the actual TX frequency. Take your IC-728, put it on 7040.0 (into D/Load of course) and press your straight key. An external frequency counter will read dead on 7.040000 +/- calibration errorS. The receiver however is actually listening to 7040.8 or 7039.2. If you wanted to TX on 7039.5, that is where you would set the display. Again, we are speaking of the typical I/K/Y/Alinco new rig in the CW mode.

With my Drake equipment, if the TX is on 7040, then the RX gets tunes to almost 7041 to get my desired 900 Hz pitch. Same holds true for my MFJ-9040. The TX was calibrated to tx on 7040 (by me) with the dial right across the center of the mark and the RX receives at 7040.8.

Hope that is clear. If not, take two synthesized rigs and email me in the morning :)

CU in the FOX pileups, Jim K3QIO Del

P.S. Disregard the private posting I sent you Bill. I misread your orig message.

At 12:49 PM 1/30/97 EST, you wrote:

>Jim:

> Regarding the frequency of operation. You said to pick something
>like 7,039.5 etc. You are refering to the carrier frequency, arn't you.
>My equipment runs with a -750 cycle off set on some bands, and +750 on
>others. I have to plug this factor in to come up with the right digital
>read out. Now for those who have analog readout or those who run
>seperate xmit/rcvrs....Get's to be a can of worms. If we all understand
>that when a frequency is mentioned, we mean the carrier fq. not the
>digital readout freq. I hope I have the right grasp on this.

>

>72's

>Bill..W7KXB

>Mesa, az.

>30/1749z

>

>

>

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997

From: wmcshan@REX.RE.uokhsc.edu (Mike McShan)

Subject: [10390] Re: HW-8 aligned

Message-ID: <v01540b00ad33444bc021@[157.142.8.166]>

>I'm wondering how my power out compares to the rest of you 8-ers...

>80m (slightly deaf receiver) 3 watts out

>40m 6 watts out

>20m 6 watts out

>15m 1.5-2 watts out

>

(snip)

>

>73 de dave, n9uxu

6 Watts out on 40 and 20M!! Holy Smokes! HW8s usually put out only about 2 W on these bands. Are you sure that your probe readings are accurate?

BTW, my RF probe (= the one that has been in the ARRL handbook since the flood) is as stable as a rock - you may want to check what is the input impedance on your meter (should be about 10 MOhm to work with the RF probe properly).

Mike N5JKY

Edmond, OK

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: James Parsons <k5rov1@worldnet.att.net>
Subject: [10408] Re: HW-8 aligned
Message-ID: <1.5.4.32.19970130030711.0066e84c@204.127.3.1>

At 02:39 AM 1/30/97 +0000, you wrote:

>I'm wondering how my power out compares to the rest of you 8-ers...
>80m (slightly deaf receiver) 3 watts out
>40m 6 watts out
>20m 6 watts out
>15m 1.5-2 watts out
>
>40 and 20 seem high according to the manual...15 a bit low...

>73 de dave, n9uxu
>

WOW! Dave, your lucky. I cannot get more than two watts out of either of my HW-8's. And, that is with very careful alignment. One has very low output on 40 meters (1 watt), but two watts out on all the other bands. I get two watts out of the other one. That is using an Astron power supply at 13.7 volts. I would say you are doing great!

The receiver is hot on both units on all bands. But, I do receive a broadcast station in the background on both units on 20 meters.

73

Jim, K5ROV

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: Steve/NOTU <NOTU@webaccess.net>
Subject: [10463] Re: Improve that audio!
Message-ID: <32F12325.569A@webaccess.net>

Frank G3YCC wrote:
>
> How to improve your receive audio:
>

> This applies to rigs with top mounted loudspeakers (many modern commercial
> rigs).
>
> To increase the audio from your nice grey/black box, obtain an empty
> margarine carton. Cut it in half to form 'an arch' and place behind the
> speaker grill. This will 'throw the audio' forward. Try it, it works. OK,
> so it's not a new idea, but may be useful to someone...!
>
> NOTES: Butter containers also work but may be responsible for increased
> Cholesterol levels.
>
> The make of margarine (or butter) is unimportant.
>
> Well, it makes a change from mint tins...
> Cheers!
> ---72/3---Frank G3YCC G QRP 042
> QTHR (Kirk Ella, East Yorkshire)
> QRP Web sites: <http://www.gqrpclub.demon.co.uk>
> <http://www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/5179>

This does work!...I used a plastic paint spray can lid behind a tiny
speaker in my HW8 and it really tailored the freq response... acting as
an audio filter similar to the Skytec speaker idea...Steve

```

portable/solar powered QRP                                QRP-L # 911
49er/HW8/ExplorerII/Zepp in attic @ CO SPGS,CO           ARS# 206
HTTP://www.webaccess.net/~S&P                             Steve-N0TU

```

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: Chris Cartwright <ccart@vidtel.com>
Subject: [10419] Re: Itty Bitty 4 to 44 MHz VCX0
Message-ID: <Pine.LNX.3.93.970130101902.489B-100000@dns.vidtel.com>

Well, it looks like K1MG was right. I just got off the phone with MF
electronics and the VCX0 are built for a specific frequency and then
(based on spec's) you can drag it 50-150ppm in either direction. Also
it's a square wave output, can you say CHIRP!!

Oh well, back to searching for parts for a \$25 all bander QRP kit. :)

```

-- Christopher Cartwright, Tech. Engineer    |          ccart@vidtel.com
-- Phone 301.990.0735 N3XRV QRP-L #655     |          ccart@erols.com

```

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: Chris Cartwright <ccart@vidtel.com>
Subject: [10370] Re: Itty Bitty 4 to 44 MHz VCXO vs???
Message-ID: <Pine.LNX.3.93.970129190901.1553B-100000@dns.vidtel.com>

On Wed, 29 Jan 1997, Ed Tanton wrote:

> Wouldn't it be just as small to build a small varactor VFO and stabilize it
> with a 4046 to 1 Hz e.g. huff-n-puff style??? Oughta be able to put that
> onto a 2 x 2 inch breadboard. OK you gurus, why not???

Hmmm... Seems as if I might have started something here. Guess I better put a call into them tomorrow and see if I can get the data sheet on it. So far it seems that it may not vary over the whole range, or it's too noisy, or it just won't work. After I get the spec's I might just try to weasel (badger?) a "sample" out of them and then find someone on the list to try and make 'sumptin out of it. I'll look for volunteers if I get one.

-- Christopher Cartwright, Tech. Engineer		ccart@vidtel.com
-- Phone 301.990.0735 N3XRV QRP-L #655		ccart@erols.com

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: Cecil A Moore <Cecil_A_Moore@ccm.ch.intel.com>
Subject: [10421] Re: Ladder-Line SWR

>From: Ed Pacyna <pacyna@auratek.com>
>Why would someone want to measure the SWR on ladder line anyway?
>I thought this type of transmission line is used because it can handle
>very high SWR with low loss (which makes possible a multi-band
>antenna). Ed, W1AAZ

Hi Ed, merely having low losses in the antenna and ladder-line is not enough. We must ensure low losses in the rest of the system, e.g. balun and tuner. If we don't know what impedance the balun and tuner are seeing, we may be suffering high losses without knowing it. I was losing 2 'S' units on 75m because of that problem. If we know the ladder-line SWR and the location of an I_{max} point, we can calculate the feedpoint impedance to see if it is optimum for our balun and tuner.

Maybe an example would help. Assume a 102 ft dipole fed with 450 ohm ladder line on 3.6 MHz into a 4:1 balun into a tuner, a common

configuration. The minimum impedance we'll see on the feedline is 14 ohms. If we happen to hit that point, the balun tries to take it down to 3.5 ohms, a very lossy condition for the tuner to try to match. There will be high losses in the balun and tuner and we won't realize it unless we know the feedpoint impedance.

73, Cecil, W6RCA

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: JCoote@aol.com
Subject: [10431] Re: Ladder-Line SWR
Message-ID: <970130112705_1625877976@emout06.mail.aol.com>

In a message dated 97-01-29 15:25:42 EST, pacyna@auratek.com (Ed Pacyna) writes:

>>One way to measure SWR on ladder-line is etc. etc. (deleted)
>
>Why would anyone want to measure this anyway?
>
>I thought the reason for using ladder line is it's ability to handle very
>high SWR with low loss (like in a multiband antenna).
>
>Ed, W1AAZ

Ed and the Group,

Yes, ladder (or 300 ohm TV) line is often used as a feedline for an all- or wide-band antennas, such as G5RV's, dipoles, vees or Zepps and it is the only transmission line for these antennas...works great!

Some of the ladder line posts here lately dealt with monoband antennas- Combinations of flat-top and feeder length (or the addition of capacitors or stubs to the balanced feeder) to allow a direct match to 50 ohms. In these antennas, SWR (at the feedpoint) is a concern because of the direct match.

An interesting thread. Hopefully we'll see lots of lightweight portable designs (Folded dipoles, zepps) which use TV line rather than heavier coax.

73, Jay
W6CJ

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: Ed Pacyna <pacyna@auratek.com>
Subject: [10454] Re: Ladder-Line SWR
Message-ID: <3.0.16.19970130151143.2f7f3d3e@galaxy.auratek.com>

>Hi Ed, merely having low losses in the antenna and ladder-line is not
>enough. We must ensure low losses in the rest of the system, e.g.
>balun and tuner. If we don't know what impedance the balun and
>tuner are seeing, we may be suffering high losses without knowing
>it. I was losing 2 'S' units on 75m because of that problem. If
>we know the ladder-line SWR and the location of an I_{max} point, we
>can calculate the feedpoint impedance to see if it is optimum for
>our balun and tuner.

Yes, the design of the entire system design needs to consider end to end losses, because 94% power loss is an awful lot!!!

>Maybe an example would help. Assume a 102 ft dipole fed with 450
>ohm ladder line on 3.6 MHz into a 4:1 balun into a tuner, a common
>configuration. The minimum impedance we'll see on the feedline is
>14 ohms. If we happen to hit that point, the balun tries to take
>it down to 3.5 ohms, a very lossy condition for the tuner to try
>to match. There will be high losses in the balun and tuner and we
>won't realize it unless we know the feedpoint impedance.

Well now that we know that this "common configuration" is inefficient, maybe it won't be so common anymore.

I don't see how knowing the SWR at one frequency adds any value. Whether it's 200:1, 100:1 or 10:1 is of little importance. We already know that the SWR is going to vary through these extremes as we change frequency. Lets look at the end to end problem.

On the Antenna

One of the most efficient antennas for multi-frequency operation is a center fed wire cut 1/2 wave long at the lowest operating frequency (i.e. 3.6Mhz = 130'). However this length is not super critical and an antenna that is 102' long, will be 99+% as efficient. There is a ton of antenna literature, models, software and experience that describe the specific parameters (e.g. Z, gain, pattern etc.) as we move from frequency to frequency.

On Ladder Line

Very few antenna's have the same feed point Z as ladder line (e.g. 300 to 600 ohms). However, a benefit of ladder line is that it has an extremely

low losses under high SWR conditions, which presents the opportunity to build efficient multi band antennas. Graphs and tables that present the losses of various feed line types vs SWR and frequency are commonly available.

On the Tuner

A year or two back, QST had a multi-part article that compared various tuner types and efficiencies. Given all the possible circuit configurations, quality of parts, load conversion ranges etc., there is no quick and simple answer. For this type of antenna you want to use a balanced tuner (preferably one with a topology that goes from the 50 ohm unbalanced transmitter to balanced antenna load, like the Johnson Matchbox type). Using unbalanced tuner types and trying to go from unbalanced to balanced between the tuner and the antenna with a balun is not the way to go.

On the Balun

Baluns have very high losses under conditions of high SWR, impedance etc.. Use only current baluns and than only in a low impedance matched side of system. Wide band baluns in low Z situations can be very efficient. Jerry Spevick (sp?) W2FMI wrote several books on this subject (published by the ARRL).

On a personal note, I use a 102' inverted V fed with 60 or so feet of ladder line to a balanced L network and a current (choke) balun on the low Z side. Last winter worked 55 countries with a 75M homebrew SSB transceiver at 10W PEP. On several occasions, I disconnected the final and hooked the antenna to the driver (250mW PEP), and they still heard me in Europe.

Moral of the story is:

Build the transmitter to antenna (end to end) system the right way (and you won't care what the SWR on the ladder line is).

Ed, W1AAZ

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: Ed Tanton <n4xy@avana.net>
Subject: [10387] Re:Mica Cap Markings
Message-ID: <3.0.32.19970129221223.0099a5f0@tiger.avana.net>

Hi Larry... Usually, 271 WILL be 270pf... one way you may differentiate, is to find the 271s and others, and compare your other caps... micas can be identified (crudely) by putting like with like; e.g. group them by

manufacturer as best you can by using their physical characteristics. Some are darker, some have markings obvious enough to ID them as the same mfg as others, and some will have different body shapes/lead thicknesses, etc. Once you have them grouped by mfg, look for numbers you can use to ascertain which method they are using.

I believe most of them with no J or anything else are actually marked in pf... but check it the same way (look for a 272 or whatever-I don't think you will find one... those cap markings SEEM to usually apply to 0-999pf caps-but like everything else, not always!!!)... I also believe most micas with the 'j' are using the 272=2700 pf convention for the meaning of the 3rd digit. The third type you mention you will again have to see if you have any caps higher than 99pf to see what they do with that third digit and apply that convention to the others.

This should reduce the number you have to check. I seem to recall the last time I was doing this, I wound up with 3 or 4 different types (and one of those used 2700.) Also, you ought to check one of each brand you have identified... that also will establish their convention. I hope this helps.
72/73

Ed Tanton N4XY EMAIL: n4xy@avana.net TEL: (770)579-3933 V/MBX/FAX
189 Pioneer Trail
Marietta, GA 30068-3466

QRP-ARCI#7663 G-QRP#6779 OK-QRP#172 QRP-L#758 AdvRC#140
NORCAL#1779 NCDXF SEDXC

Life Member: ARRL AMSAT IDRA INDEXA QCWA
URL: Coming Sooner or Later

"Think you can, think you can't: either way you're right!" Henry Ford

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: Bob Patten <n4bp@shadow.net>
Subject: [10405] Re: Nebr FSFD/WB0QPA
Message-ID: <Pine.SOL.3.91.970130015511.20416C-100000@hyper>

On Wed, 29 Jan 1997, STEVEN V. SELLMEYER wrote:

> Finally got in touch with Dale (WB0QPA) tonight and here is his report of
> contacts and comments. He was running a KW TS-830 @ 100 watts into an
> HF-6 vertical. Said he wanted to make sure he was heard!
>

I hope if he gives out NE another time, he will do it with QRP. It was very disappointing to me to copy his power as 100W...

Bob Patten, N4BP
Plantation, FL
n4bp@shadow.net

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: Ed Tanton <n4xy@avana.net>
Subject: [10430] Re: New Ham
Message-ID: <3.0.32.19970130113510.0094fc90@tiger.avana.net>

Hi Tom... I don't know anyone there (in radio-I was there a lot in the early 90s for Little League Baseball Umpiring) but would be happy to answer any questions/etc. you may develop as you progress. QRP QSOs are not the easiest thing in the world, but an awful lot of fun, a lot of great people, and the ONLY real rig-building kit activity available. I have not had as much fun in years as in QRP and here on QRP-L. Jump on in... the water's fine (and not full of smart-alec sharks!)

72/73

Ed Tanton N4XY EMAIL: n4xy@avana.net TEL: (770)579-3933 V/MBX/FAX
189 Pioneer Trail
Marietta, GA 30068-3466

QRP-ARCI#7663 G-QRP#6779 OK-QRP#172 QRP-L#758 AdvRC#140
NORCAL#1779 NCDXF SEDXC

Life Member: ARRL AMSAT IDRA INDEXA QCWA
URL: Coming Sooner or Later

"Think you can, think you can't: either way you're right!" Henry Ford

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: Martin Squicciarini <skitch@resuba.com>
Subject: [10409] Re: Newbie intro and questions
Message-ID: <Pine.LNX.3.91.970130064459.21103A-100000@resuba.com>

On Wed, 29 Jan 1997, Adam B. Kanis wrote:

> Stuff deleted
>

> Q: who sells a decent (please not too expensive) straight key?
> I think I'd better develop a good fist on the straight key
> before using any keyers.
>

Start with the keyer. The straight key will limit how fast you can send code and IMHO limit how fast you will be able to copy. Please note this is IMHO only I have no proof just my opinion. My advice is to practice a long time before you use the keyer on the air because it does take alot of practice. I think the big advantage is you don't have to worry about the length of dits and dahs and you can concentrate on learning how the letters sound

>
> --adam
>
> Adam B. Kanis, N2BRT/0
> adam-kanis@uiowa.edu
>
>

72/73
Marty Squicciarini NR3Z
skitch@resuba.com (home)
msquicci@vf.lmms.lmco.com (work)

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: "Arjen Raateland, SYKE/YV, puh. 09 4030 0457" <Arjen.Raateland@vyh.fi>
Subject: [10462] Re: OWF into the house, and other antenna thoughts
Message-ID: <01IEUC2BLX4C8Y7E40@vyh21.vyh.fi>

> Who ever coined the term Antenna Tuning Unit, a worse misnomer I can't
> imagine, because no fancy configuration of an 'ATU' can in fact tune the
> antenna. The only way to do that is to physically alter the antenna itself.
> It should be called an antenna matching unit, as that's what it does -
> match the antenna to the rig. Perhaps we should call it an antenna
> transformer, for that is what it is basically?
> ---72/3---Frank G3YCC G QRP 042

I think an appropriate name might be Antenna System Tuning Unit.

I would say that as far as 'tuned' means 'in resonance' which means there is no reactance, the ATU tunes the _antenna system_. At the same time the ATU also transforms the _antenna system impedance_ to a resistive 50 Ohms. Just tuning i.e. simply cancelling the reactance will generally not produce 50 Ohms. This aspect of the function of an

ATU may account for the use of the term 'matching'. Whether there are more or less losses in the feeder has no bearing on the nature of what the ATU is doing (cf. tuning an LC circuit of discrete components would be tuning independent of the losses involved).

The ATU is not aware of what it's load is made up of, coax or open wire feeder and what kind of antenna. At any one frequency it sees only a complex impedance which has two components, viz. resistance and reactance or in an alternative description impedance magnitude and phase angle. So why using different names for the same circuit depending on the construction of the antenna system connected to it? I have seen some hams advocate the use of Antenna Tuning Unit with open line feeder and of Antenna Matching Unit with coaxial feeder.

Advocating the use of Antenna Matching Unit for a device that is used between a resonant (dipole) antenna and the TX is somehow strange. Off resonance the antenna's impedance changes from the purely resistive ca. 70 Ohms to become clearly reactive yet retaining it's resistive component close to it's original value. That's when the matching unit will be called upon to achieve something, viz. cancel the reactance i.e. _tune_ the antenna system.

If there needs to be a differentiation between ATU's with different ranges of what they can handle, the distinction should not be made by 'matching' vs. 'tuning'.

IMHO
73, OH2ZAZ
Arjen Raateland
Suomen Ymp ristö keskus / YV

Finnish Environment Institute, Helsinki, Finland
SAS Support
EMAIL: Arjen.Raateland@vyh.fi
tel. +358 9 4030 0457
fax +358 9 4030 0490
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From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: gsurrency@juno.com (Gary L Surrency)
Subject: [10469] Re: OWF into the house, and other antenna thoughts
Message-ID: <19970130.164444.9990.1.gsurrency@juno.com>

I use high quality 300 ohm twinlead on one of my antennas, and it goes through the shack wall using one of those clear plastic tubes from R/S. In the corner, it doesn't really show much, and a little stucco patch and

spackeling compound will hide the hole when I move.

One important thing about low SWR as seen by most of the modern solid state rigs, is that their PA stages are sometimes pretty unstable unless they "see" a reactance-free resistive load of near 50ohms. That is the primary reason I use a tuner and watch the SWR at my shack.

Old tube gear really didn't care that much about slight mis-matches.
<sigh>

Power output also drops rapidly as the SWR increases with most QRP rigs.

Cheers,

Gary Surrency AB7MY
S&S TAC-1(40&80m) and ARK30
QRP-L #571 Chandler, AZ (near Phoenix)Grid Square DM43BH

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: Bob Roach <KE4QOK@worldnet.att.net>
Subject: [10458] Re: Powerline Noise...Solution
Message-ID: <19970130212926.AAB3275@LOCALNAME>

At 09:18 PM 1/29/97 +0000, you wrote:

>The is a book out on interference written by an ex-power company employee
>who did just this as his job. Apparently power companies are concerned
>enough to have specially trained people assigned to this work. But you
>need to work with them or they can decide that your problem is too
>expensive to bother with - I don't know what legal rights you have if it
>comes to this.
>

Hello All,

All utilities have employees who track down and correct interference. My dad did this for many years before he retired. If there is any intereset I could get hold of him and find out what the exact legal rights of the customer are and what the basic procedure is for getting the best results.

(o o)

_____o00_()_00o_____

73 es TNX

KE4QOK Real radios glow in the dark.
Bob Power is no substitute for skill.

If it stayed up last winter, it was too small.
136 Hermitage Rd.
Newport News, Va. 23606 KE4Q0K@worldnet.att.net
(757)930-0348

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: Chris Cartwright <ccart@vidtel.com>
Subject: [10415] Re: Salesman of the year Award?
Message-ID: <Pine.LNX.3.93.970130091028.489A-100000@dns.vidtel.com>

On Thu, 30 Jan 1997, George Gingell wrote:

> A special note to the other purchasers. If we each add about \$2.00
> to our order payment, Scott will get a "FREE ATU KIT". A small way to
> say thanks. IMHO I don't know if anyone else tallied up the results,

Seconded! I've already sent NF3I payment, and got the AT-11 for what I
thought was a fair price when I decided to buy it. So I don't need/want
any additional discounts. I just want to say thanks again to Scott, since
otherwise I don't think I would have ever had this nice a tuner.

Now if we could just convince him to do it again, maybe with the Island
Keyer...

Seriously Scott, if you need help, just call, I'll be there.

-- Christopher Cartwright, Tech. Engineer		ccart@vidtel.com
-- Phone 301.990.0735 N3XRV QRP-L #655		ccart@erols.com

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: jacobsen@mail.wiscnet.net (Ed Jacobsen)
Subject: [10468] Re: Salesman of the year Award?
Message-ID: <199701302334.RAA43668@gomer.wiscnet.net>

>
>Seconded! I've already sent NF3I payment, and got the AT-11 for what I
>thought was a fair price when I decided to buy it. So I don't need/want
>any additional discounts. I just want to say thanks again to Scott, since
>otherwise I don't think I would have ever had this nice a tuner.
>>-- Christopher Cartwright, Tech. Engineer | ccart@vidtel.com

>-- Phone 301.990.0735 N3XRV QRP-L #655 | ccart@erols.com
>

Here here!

I agree with you Chris. this little thanks will also relieve Scott the additional work of having to write out 44 checks. Ed

- - -
Ed Jacobsen
4900 Dake Road
Webster WI 54893, U.S.A.
phone/fax (715)349-2761
KB9KJE

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: Roger Hightower <rhight@primenet.com>
Subject: [10377] Re: Should I get a Straight Key or Iambic Keyer (mod. long)
Message-ID: <32EFFF03.2296@primenet.com>

I vote for paddles and a keyer. Way too many times you hear someone using a straight key who has no sense of timing at all, and it's very difficult to copy. Paddles and a keyer solve that problem. Most people only use a straight key once a year (12/31) so have lots of time to practice.

You'll find much more enjoyable QSO's with a keyer and paddle.....the days of having a distinctive "swing" are gone.

--
72/73 de Roger N7KT Mesa, AZ Grid DM43cj
NorCal 40-9er, NC-40A, OHR Explorer 20, 30M, OHR400, HW-8, HW-9 and more to come.
NorCal 1099 CoQRP 176 QRP-L 62 G-QRP 9081 ARCI 8946 NE-QRP 383

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: Vic Rosenthal <rakefet@rakefet.com>
Subject: [10386] Re: Should I get a Straight Key or Iambic Keyer (mod. long)
Message-ID: <32F00EC8.4FC3@rakefet.com>

SDULANEY wrote:

> 1. Should I get a straight key or keyer?

This is going to be a minority opinion, but I think you should get a

straight key, learn to use it as well as you can, and then graduate to a semi-automatic key - a mechanical 'bug'. It is harder to learn to use a straight key properly than a keyer, and harder yet to get a decent fist with a bug. But hey, if all you want is to transmit information from point a to point b, there are better ways than CW (and better ways than radio, for that matter). And I also think that a distinctive, personal 'fist' is far better than cold, perfect computer-like CW from a keyer (or even a keyboard). Attention flamers: yes, I like tube radios and vinyl records, too.

Vic K2VCO

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: ori@juno.com (Ori K Mizrahi-Shalom)
Subject: [10399] Re: Should I get a Straight Key or Iambic Keyer (mod. long)
Message-ID: <19950129.213312.4367.6.ori@juno.com>

> I have decided to learn code and upgrade so I to can send CW. The
38S
> kit is what gave me the motivation. So what better place than here
to
> ask for a recommendation of initial type of key to get and use.

Steve,

First, for the 38S you should get the TiCK, it's good with either one and it works well (and I get nothing from this! just a happy "customer"). I'd suggest you start with paddles. They take 2 weeks to get used to, but then you can improve your speed without any "mechanical" limitation. The main reason is not the speed! It's really the fact that as a beginner you must think of learning and improving your receive speed. A keyer forces you to listen, even when you're sending code. That's like practicing while you're having fun!

72/73

ORI AC6AN

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: herr@ridgecrest.ca.us (Michael Herr)

Subject: [10378] Re>Suggestions for backpacking antennas
Message-ID: <v01530500af1466fab81@[199.120.150.190]>

Larry,

What I would suggest for mono band use is a simple dipole, using RG-174 coax, 26gage flex hookup wire and no insulators, just a loop at the end. I don't run multiband cuz of the weight of the rig, tuners, etc. I've used this antenna on several backpacking trips, all with success.

>Hi everyone: I want to construct a QRP backpacking antenna(s) so I'm trying
>to think of the lightest, less bulky solutions. For single band work I'm
>thinking of a 300 ohm folded dipole using the lightweight Radio Shack 300
>ohm ribbon. For multiband work the St. Louis vertical seems easiest.
>However, I'm sure there is more experience out there than I have! I'd love
>some suggestions!

>

>*****
>Larry G. Gagnon, Senior Explorationist,
>Ampolex USA Inc. 1050-17th st Suite 2500, Denver CO 80265 USA
>tel 1-303-595-9000 fax 1-303-595-0110 email lgg@ampolexusa.com
>*****

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Jan 30 18:01:48 1997
From: JCoote@aol.com
Subject: [10434] Re: Suggestions for backpacking batteries?
Message-ID: <970130112652_506380908@emout11.mail.aol.com>

In a message dated 97-01-29 14:47:16 EST, lgg@ampolexusa.com (Larry Gagnon) writes:

>

>Firstly, thanks to all whom have responded so rapidly and thoroughly to my
>previous requests for experience and suggestions. This is definately one of
>the best lists going and beats the Usenet groups by a mile.

>

>One more query concerns a battery system to power a Sierra for backpacking.
>I was thinking of the 12V gel cell 3-7AH cases (about 6"x4"x2") but they are
>rather heavy. Does anyone know of a Nicad or other lighter weight, not too
>expensive system that would be better? Your responses will be appreciated.

>

>thanks...Larry VE6TN/W0

Larry & Group;

One option might be to make your own battery packs from AA, A, C or D batteries, depending on your power demands.

These may be connected in series for the desired voltage by soldering short insulated #22 stranded jumpers to the battery terminals. Make the jumpers long enough to allow for the battery pack to flex or take a beating and protect the jumpers by wrapping them under the duct tape when you tape up the battery pack. The battery packs may then be made into any convenient shape for your operation. The batteries are taped using duct or gaffer's tape.

The battery packs that result are not pretty, but are small and flexible to a degree. The duct tape protects the batteries, terminals and jumpers enough for most operations.

73, Jay

W6CJ